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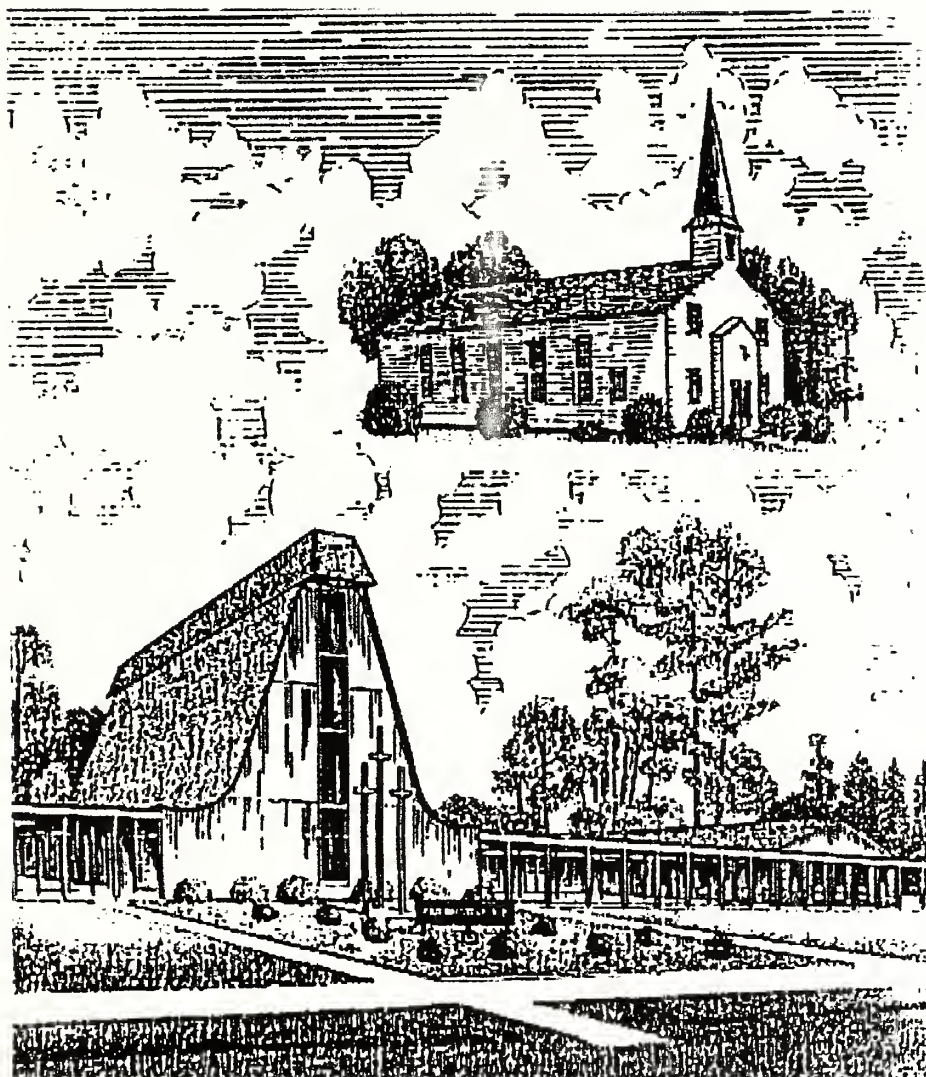
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The History of:

**THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH**

**BUTNER, NORTH CAROLINA**

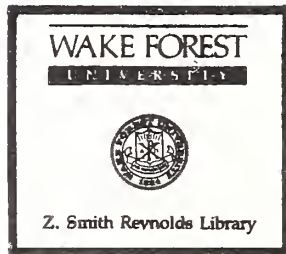
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# **HISTORY OF THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH**

**Butner, North Carolina**

**“The Captains and the Kings departed”  
And  
A Church was born in Butner.**



## **MY THANKS TO ALL WHO HAVE ASSISTED!**

**If I start calling names I am sure that I will omit a name I should list, but I must say a special "thank you" to the following:**

**Shirley Gupton, Church Secretary**

BAPT

**Jackie Register, Church Clerk**

BX

**Virginia Streib, Anniversary Committee Chairman**

6480

**Bill Tunstall, Deacon**

B87

**Chris Emory**

565

**Emmanuel Pegram, Pastor**

1998

**Bess Bush-Perkinson**

**All the former pastors who have provided information & encouragement**

**All the Charter Members and older persons who have shared information and pictures**

**Two special computer experts who have assisted much: Greg Mitchell and William Anna**

**And, to my wife, Nan, who has tolerated a mess in my study and the living room over the past seven or eight months.**

**Thank you all.**

**Eddie L. Smith**

## **A foreword**

### **FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE**

**The Fiftieth Anniversary Committee was appointed in the Fall of 1996. Original members of the Committee were:**

**Frances Bowden, A Charter Member of the Church  
Doris Gupton  
Richard Holt  
Vickie Smoak  
Virginia Streib, Chair-Person**

**Richard Holt requested that he be replaced in the Summer of 1998. David Rooks was appointed to fill this position. Mr. Holt remains an honorary member.**

**This Committee has been active in preparation for the celebration. Members have met on a regular basis. In April, 1998, six months prior to the actual celebration, the Committee decided to commence a monthly event that would serve to keep the Anniversary on the minds of the congregation.**

**In April a skit was done with roles played by Jim and Peggy McSwain and Maggie Smoak. They recreated discussions that took place fifty years previous in the home of A. C., Frances and Sylvia Bowden. The participants discussed the organization of a Baptist Church in Butner.**

**In May, 1998, Virginia Streib introduced the congregation to the commemorative items to be highlighted prior to and during the celebration. The picture which highlights the front cover of this book was placed on tiles and magnets and made available to the community. By the way, this picture was done by World Wide Art Studios, of Covington, Tenn. It was done from color pictures of the Chapel and the present sanctuary. These studios also used sketches done by Emmanuel Pegram.**

**In June, Danny Barbour told of growing up in the Butner Baptist Church during the days before air conditioning and modern heat, and of the people in the church who had influenced his life.**

**In July Chandler and Vicki Wynne spoke as new members of the church. They discussed the factors in the church that caused them to chose First Baptist as their home church.**

**August was highlighted by a presentation by Bess Bush Perkinson, widow of former pastor, Warren Bush, and now the wife of long time deacon, treasurer and leader of the church, Leon Perkinson. She discussed the formative years of the church.**

**This Committee has done an excellent work, and especially the Chairman, Mrs. Virginia Streib. Not only has she led this Committee, she has proof-read this book several times. She is a meticulous woman and she has aided this writer much.**



## **A FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY NOTE FROM OUR PASTOR**

For fifty years we members of First Baptist Church here in Butner, North Carolina have been going about our daily activities living out our faith in Jesus Christ. An attempt is being made to put in writing some of the events in these years that have shaped us into who we are today. The church elected a Fiftieth Anniversary Committee to help us prepare for the celebration. This committee consist of Virginia Streib (Chairperson), Frances Bowden, Doris Gupton, Richard Holt and Vickie Smoak. This committee has asked Eddie Smith to write the history of the church for its first fifty years

I know that Eddie has put many, many hours into this writing. Our record keeping has not been the best in the world. He has done everything possible to fill in the gaps, as accurately as possible, where the records are missing. I take this opportunity on your behalf to express our gratitude to Eddie for his time and efforts.

What you see in these pages tell us “who we are!” You probably will read about some things you have forgotten. And, you will read about things we have done that we wish we could change. The majority of that which is recorded for posterity about events and people will make us proud of who we are.

These recorded events will also tell us “who we are becoming!” The faith venture is a life-long process. Since First Baptist Butner is not a building, but us, this means who *we* become determines what First Baptist becomes. The conclusion of our first fifty years almost corresponds with the conclusion of the twentieth century, and, with the conclusion of the second millennium since the birth of Christ. My, does this not make us “time conscious”. Is this not a good *time* to consider the future? We cannot change these records, but we can control our tomorrows. First Baptist will change for the worse or the better as we do the same.

May I challenge us to re-commit ourselves to our real purpose for existence –to magnify our Creator Lord in worship, fellowship and service. Let us earnestly be about His business of telling the community of Butner about Him and His love.

As your pastor, I am glad to have been a part of one quarter of this your history—and I look forward to the tomorrows with excitement and challenge. As marvelous and great as our past has been, I can see a more blessed tomorrow.

In gratitude for God’s blessings in the yesterday and for his promise of the tomorrow,

Emanuel P. Pegram  
1998



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# **<sup>1</sup>HISTORY OF THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF BUTNER, NORTH CAROLINA**

## **BACKGROUND**

On January 5, 1942, The United States War Department officially announced the long-rumored plan to construct a \$22,000,000 Army Camp in an area encompassed by the southern part of Granville, the northern part of Durham and the eastern part of Person Counties, North Carolina. The very center of this army camp was later determined to be in the small community of Wilkins Station. This community was located about half way between what was then Lyons Station and Cozart Station on the Railroad. (This site may now be defined by that site where Central Avenue crosses the railroad in Butner, N. C. )

The Department of the Army purchased about 40,000 acres from the farmers of the area. Several hundred families were displaced because this Army Base was sited in the area.

Construction of the Army Base started at a break-neck pace, and on June 15, 1942, over 2200 buildings had been constructed and troop trains had unloaded about 17,000 trainees at Camp Butner, North Carolina. Camp Butner, North Carolina was dedicated on the above date. The Department of the Army had previously given the base the name, "Camp Butner", in honor of General Henry Wolfe Butner, a native of Surrey County, North Carolina, and a "Hero" of World War I. General Butner had died in 1937, while serving as Governor- General of Panama. Thus, at the conclusion of World War II, the community retained the name, "Butner".



**June 25, 1942, The Gould-Wingate Company is building an army hospital at Camp Butner, N. C. These buildings became John Umstead Hospital after World War II.. The need for employees at this hospital brought hundreds of persons from farms, textile mills and other disciplines to Butner, and to jobs working with the mentally ill in this hospital. It was these people who organized The Butner Baptist Church**

## **A PREVIOUS BAPTIST WITNESS IN SOUTH GRANVILLE COUNTY**

While there is no relationship between the existence of the church shown in the picture on this page and the organization of The Butner Baptist Church, readers fifty years hence may be pleased to know that a Baptist witness existed in this area prior to the World War II. The Knapp of Reeds Baptist Church shown here was organized as the Flat River Union Baptist Church in 1846. The best information we have is that this first church was located near the East end of what is now Brickhouse Road. Cemetery remains located here would indicate that the first Log Church was in that area.



The church was relocated to the site on the knoll overlooking the Knapp of Reeds Creek some time after 1884 and before 1895. Indications are that it was relocated and renamed around 1893.

It would appear that the majority of the residents of South Granville County were Baptist. Concord was a strong church as well as the Knapp of Reeds Church. Not only is the strength of the Baptist Witness indicated by the numerical size of the congregation, but the fact that these churches possessed a reputation that could entice very reputable pastors indicates the strength of their witness. Dr. J. B. Weatherspoon served as pastor of Knapp of Reeds during the 1930's, and at the time of the evacuation of Camp Butner in 1942, Dr. Weatherspoon had become a professor of Homiletics and Sociology at the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. He remained there many years.

The Knapp of Reeds Church was a member, in good standing, of the Flat River Baptist Association.

A granite column has been placed at the new cemetery, The South Granville Memorial Gardens, to denote the fact that the Knapp of Reeds Church served this community for nearly one hundred years. The statement on the column reads: "In memory of the Knapp of Reeds Baptist Church and the Cemetery Thereof, 1846-1942."



# CHAPTER ONE

## BAPTIST CHURCH IS BORN IN CAMP BUTNER

The Treasurer's Report of **Baptist Council of Durham and Vicinity, Inc.** for the year, 1948 indicated total receipts of \$15,515.31. Of this amount the report showed a balance on hand at the beginning of the year of \$4,602.29, a gift from the State Baptist Convention \$4,056.91, Grace Baptist Church \$1,000.00, Watts Street Baptist Church \$759.23, First Baptist (Durham) \$750.00 and, among 23 other individual and church gifts, a gift entitled "Butner Offering", \$209.00.

On the disbursement side of that same Treasurer's Report are the following figures:

Butner Chapel	\$ 1,500.00
Butner Post Office Building,	\$ 400.00
Butner Church Expense,	\$ 362.62

This is the first docket, other than local notes, that makes mention of the Butner Church. This is therefore a valuable small piece of paper for historical reasons. This report was done after 12/31/48 and before this Baptist Council had proceeded far into the 1949 year. We do not know exactly what date the Baptist Council purchased the Chapel, but we do know that the purchase was made prior to September 5, 1948, for the second piece of printed matter we have is a REVIVAL POSTER that will be discussed below.

## BUTNER BAPTIST CHURCH EVOLVES OUT OF A REVIVAL

The next piece of printed matter we have that makes reference to a Baptist Church at Butner is a REVIVAL POSTER. The poster's purpose is to advertise a revival to be held at the "Baptist Chapel", ( Post Chapel No. 1 on D Street). The poster reads, "Services Beginning Sunday Afternoon, September 5, 1948, at 3:00 P.M., and each night at 7:30.

Preaching by

**REV. OREN BRADLEY**

On this same Poster, dated prior to September 5, 1948, the following statement is printed:

"The Baptist Council of Durham and Vicinity has bought the Post Chapel No. 1 from the War Assets Administration to be used for a Baptist Church at Butner. It is hoped to organize the church immediately following the revival

All Baptists of this community are invited to make your plans to join with us and help to build a great church."

# **THE DURATION ARRIVED AND SOON THEREAFTER A NEW BAPTIST WITNESS WAS BEGUN IN SOUTH GRANVILLE COUNTY!**

A very familiar, and frequently made statement heard during World War II, was the statement, "After the Duration". When an individual made this statement he/she meant , "When the war is over".

Rudyard Kipling stated the emotions felt during the war in a poetic fashion in what became the song, " God of our Fathers Whose Almighty Hand" . A line from this song expresses our sentiments here.

"The tumult and the shouting dies; the captains and the kings depart;  
Still stands Thine ancient sacrifice, An humble and a contrite heart.  
Lord God of Hosts be with us yet,  
Lest we forget, lest we forget."

Christians can relate to these lines, especially during and after a great war. The impact of a war that had touched almost every American household, and had wrought an especially devastating toll on the people of South Granville County, in North Carolina would long be remembered and would affect the behavior of these people in all areas of their lives.

They had experienced the forced evacuation and their homes, their churches and their livelihood had been taken from their control. In addition to these losses these people had felt the same impact of the war that every other American had felt: rationing, fear, and the fact that their loved ones also went away to war to possibly become wounded or killed.

Those who came to The Camp Butner area after the war found desolation glaring them in the face from every direction. They found an abandoned army base that nobody had wanted to clean up after the "party". Weeds, grass, snakes and rats prevailed in the abandoned houses and grounds. The abandoned chapels which had been used during the war served as gaunt reminders that in the midst of all this devastation the symbols that had represented the presence of God in the lives of men going to fight a war also suffered from non-use and abandonment. The persons who had re-inhabited Camp Butner in order to work at the mental hospital saw these chapels as reminders that they needed places to worship God.

Those who cared enough must have lifted up their eyes to the heavens and repeated the Macedonian Prayer, "Come over and help us we pray."



## **BAPTIST COUNCIL OF DURHAM AND VICINITY CAME TO THE AID OF THOSE WHO WANTED A BAPTIST CHURCH IN BUTNER!**

Prior to September 7, 1948, the Baptists of Durham, North Carolina were served by an organization known as "THE BAPTIST COUNCIL OF DURHAM AND VICINITY ". From the perspective of the North Carolina Baptist State Convention and The Southern Baptist Convention, the Baptist Churches of Durham were within the Mt. Zion Baptist Association. However, the Mt. Zion Baptist Association was extremely large- from a geographical and a church membership perspective- There were sixty-nine churches in that association and it covered a vast geographical area.

Of the sixty-nine churches in the Mt. Zion Association more than thirty were in the Durham area. Also, the vast majority of the financial support of this association came from the churches of the Durham area. Therefore, the Baptists of the Durham area had created an organization which they felt would meet the needs of the Durham Baptists in a more forthright manner than was being done by the Mt. Zion Association.

The Baptist of the Durham area organized **The Baptist Council of Durham and Vicinity**. This Council was well entrenched in 1948. In fact it was so well established that many Baptists of the area didn't want to see it abolished even after these same Baptists split off from the Mt. Zion Association and formed the Yates Baptist Association.

Among the leaders of this Baptist Council were Dr. J. Winston Pierce, of Durham First Baptist and the Reverend B. E. Morris, pastor of Greystone Baptist Church. These men and others from the area were successful in arranging an harmonious separation from the Mt. Zion Association, and on September 7, 1948, the Yates Baptist Association was organized at The First Baptist Church in Durham. So strong, however, was The Baptist Council of Durham and Vicinity that during the 1949 session of the Yates Baptist Association there was much opposition to discontinuing the Council. The Yates Association messengers debated this subject the better part of two days and when they at last took the vote the decision was not unanimous.

The Butner Baptist Church was sponsored by The Durham Council. It was not sponsored by the Yates Association. In fact, the Yates Association wasn't but about ten days old when the Butner Church was organized. However, The Butner Church was listed as one of the charter churches of the Yates Association. Should you find this difficult to understand, you simply need to remember that all the churches of the Durham area became members of The newly organized- Yates Association, and, at the same time, most of these churches remained members of the Durham Council unto September, 1949, when the Baptist Council of Durham and Vicinity was actually abolished.

The Butner Baptist Church had one Messenger at the 1949 session of the Yates Association. J. W. Miller is recorded as the only Messenger from The Butner Church. These same 1949 minutes of the Yates Association reveal that Butner contributed \$1.95 to the Yates Association, and that Butner requested five copies of the Associational Minutes.

The Statistical Tables of the 1949 session of the Yates Association listed a limited number of the officers of The Butner Baptist Church. J. H. Eason was listed as Sunday School Superintendent; Mr. Eason was also listed as Treasurer; Mrs. W. E. Bullock was listed as WMU President and Clerk of the Church.. No name is listed in the blank provided for the pastor's name. The 1950 Minutes of this Association listed the name of Clyde F. Melton as pastor. These 1950 Minutes also gave a report of the January, 1950 meeting of the Associational Executive Committee. This Executive Committee recommended to The North Carolina Baptist Convention-State Missions Department- that Ministerial Aid be granted to the pastor of The Butner Baptist Church. Ministerial Aid is an amount given by The State Missions Department to new and dependent churches so that the pastor's salary can be supplemented. (The Butner Baptist Church continued to receive this supplement for about ten years.)

In 1951, The Butner Baptist Church pledged \$48.00 to the Yates Association as Associational Missions.

Hal Helms was listed as pastor, W. M. Rich, as Sunday School Superintendent. L. B. Perkinson was listed as Baptist Training Union Director and as Treasurer- (a position he held for about forty years.) Mrs. J. A. Marshburn was listed as WMU President and Mrs. W. E. Bullock was listed as Church Clerk.

We are going to describe the action that led the Butner Baptist Church into the Flat River Baptist Association in the paragraphs that follow, but we must extend the highest praise to **The Baptist Council of Durham and Vicinity and The Yates Baptist Association** for their assistance in assisting the Butner Baptist Church in getting started. The Butner Church owes a debt of gratitude to both these bodies, and especially to **The Reverend Oren Bradley** who was Superintendent of Missions for The Baptist Council of Durham and Vicinity. He is indeed the **FATHER OF THE BUTNER BAPTIST CHURCH**.

## **BUTNER BAPTIST CHURCH JOINS THE FLAT RIVER BAPTIST ASSOCIATION IN 1952!**

This letter from The Butner Baptist Church was read by the Moderator (of The Flat River Baptist Association) and voted to be incorporated in the minutes.

September 24, 1952

The Rev. Mr. Roger Williams  
Moderator, Flat River Baptist Association  
Oxford , North Carolina

Dear Brother Williams;

On Sunday, September 7, 1952, The Butner Baptist Church, in regular conference, voted , upon the recommendation of its deacons, to petition the Flat River Association for membership in that body.

We have written to the Reverend W. Bryan Carr, moderator of the Yates Association, of which we are now a member, and asked for a letter of dismissal and recommendation to The Flat River Association.

We ask, therefore, that whatever steps necessary be taken to receive us under the watchcare of the Flat River Association, and upon receipt of the letter from the Yates Association, into the full fellowship and membership of the Association.

Sincerely Yours,

Hal M. Helms

The following motion was made and carried:

“I move that we receive the Butner Baptist Church in the Association, under watchcare, until such time of constitutions change and then into full fellowship.”

(This Motion was made by) Oren Bradley

The Reverend Warren Bush and Mr. Leon Perkinson served as Moderator of the Flat River Association; Mrs. Mary Strickland has served as Director of W. M. S. Work in the Association, and many members and pastors of The Butner Church have served in various capacities in this Association.

The Flat River Association has met at the Butner Baptist Church on a number of occasions over the years.





This is the chapel where The Butner Baptist Church was organized on September 19, 1948. It was located on "D" Street on the upper side of what is now the new church parking lot. It was purchased from the War Assets Administration for \$1500.00 in 1948. It was purchased by The Baptist Council of Durham and Vicinity and given to the Butner congregation.

The exterior and the interior of "The Chapel" that housed The Butner Baptist Church from 1948 until 1973.



Brenda Whitlow and Riley Tuck were married in the "Chapel" on June 24, 1968.

The ceremony was performed by Reverend Warren Bush. Reverend Bush also took the wedding pictures. Brenda was Secretary of the church on a part-time basis at the time of their wedding.

They attend church regularly at this time, 1998.





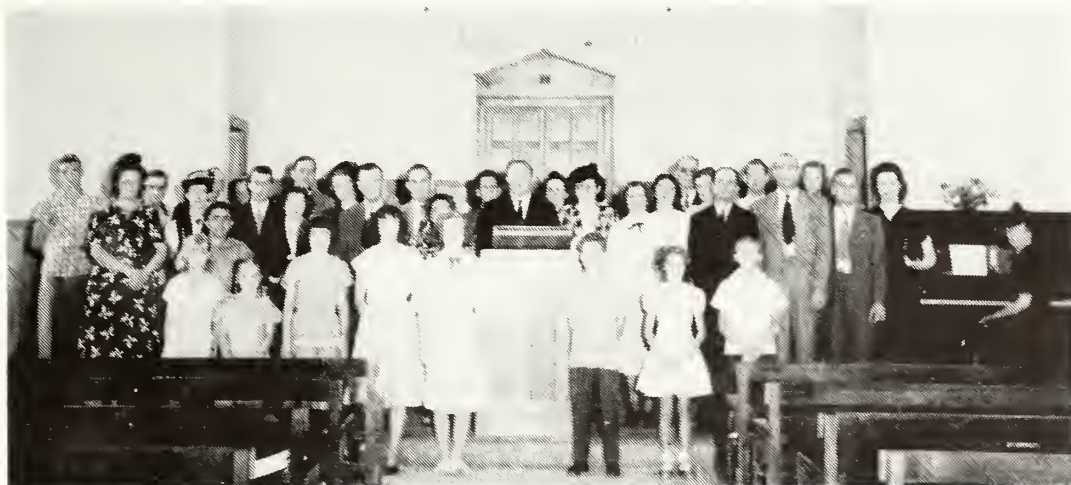
## **The Actual Organization of the Church**

One might wish that we had access of the Minutes of the Organization of The Butner Baptist Church. These we do not have . Efforts have been made to secure the minutes of The Baptist Council of Durham and Vicinity to no avail. In the absence of such minutes, because we know the process, we can list that process and leave the names of the participants off.

Rev. B. E. Morris, pastor at Grey Stone, was Chairman of the Baptist Council. He was probably the Presiding Officer. Since the new church was being sponsored by the Council they would not have required a Constitution and Bi-laws at this point in time. Rev. . Morris brought with him from Durham the pastor of The First Baptist Church of Durham, Dr. J. Winston Pierce.

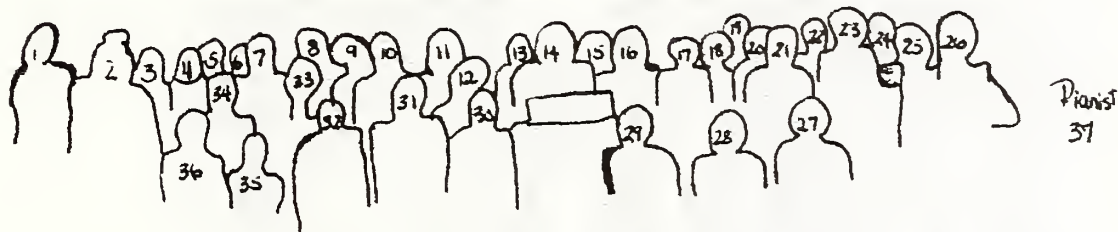
Thus, On Sunday afternoon, September 19, 1948, The Butner Baptist Church was organized, and, until it was received into the newly organized Yates Baptist Association, it remained a Mission of The Baptist Council of Durham and Vicinity.

## PICTURE OF CHARTER MEMBERS



Those who are pictured and are listed as Charter Members

- |                        |                         |                                   |
|------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. E. D. Brogden       | 13. A. C. Bowden        | 25. Dan Gray                      |
| 2. (Not Named)         | 14. Rev. Oren Bradley   | 26. Gladys Gray                   |
| 3. James Brogden       | 15. Mrs. Frances Bowden | 27. Deward Bowden                 |
| 4. Mrs. Louise Brogden | 16. Mrs., Oren Bradley  | 28. Sylvia Bowden                 |
| 5. Mr. ( ) Brogden     | 17. Ms. Maude Dickerson | 29. Bradley Bullock               |
| 6. (No Name)           | 18. Mrs. Mildred Daniel | 30. Edwina Bullock                |
| 7. John Daniel         | 19. Sidney Clayton      | 31. Mae Brogden                   |
| 8. Edwin Bullock       | 20. Pauline Cooper      | 32. Barbara Brogden               |
| 9. Lillian Bullock     | 21. Grover Jacobs       | 33. Udell Miller                  |
| 10. Fred Coley         | 22. Lasiter Hall        | 34. Frank Brogden                 |
| 11. Wade Miller        | 23. A. T. Cooper        | 35. Brenda Bullock                |
| 12. Mrs. Fred Coley    | 24. Della Evans         | 36. (No Name)                     |
| 13. A. C. Bowden       | 25. Dan Gray            | 37. Mrs. Grover Jacobs<br>Pianist |



- |                       |                         |                    |                     |                                    |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1 E. D. Brogden       | 10. Fred Coley          | 19. Sidney Clayton | 28. Sylvia Bowden   | 37. Mrs. Grover Jacobs,<br>Pianist |
| 2                     | 11. Wade Miller         | 20. Pauline Cooper | 29. Bradley Bullock |                                    |
| 3 James Brogden       | 12. Mrs. Fred Coley     | 21. Grover Jacobs  | 30. Edwina Bullock  |                                    |
| 4 Mrs. Louise Brogden | 13. A. C. Bowden        | 22. Lasiter Hall   | 31. Mae Brogden     |                                    |
| 5 Mr. Brogden         | 14. Oren Bradley, Rev.  | 23. A. T. Cooper   | 32. Barbara Brogden |                                    |
| 6                     | 15. Mrs. Frances Bowden | 24. Della Evans    | 33. Udell Miller    |                                    |
| 7. John Daniel        | 16. Mrs. Oren Bradley   | 25. Dan Gray       | 34. Frank Brogden   |                                    |
| 8. Edwin Bullock      | 17. Maude Dickerson     | 26. Gladys Gray    | 35. Brenda Bullock  |                                    |
| 9. Lillian Bullock    | 18. Mildred Daniel      | 27. Deward Bowden  | 36.                 |                                    |



## **WHO WERE THE CHARTER MEMBERS?**

### **MOST WERE STRANGERS IN A STRANGE LAND**

Chaplain and Mrs. Askins said it best. They said that for years after they came to Butner the community gave the appearance of a ghost town at Christmas. Most of the residents had gone back "home" for Christmas.

In a paraphrase of the old song the early residents of Butner apparently possessed the same attitude as the song writer.

**"This place is not my home. I'm just a passing through.  
If heaven's not my home, Oh Lord what shall I do?"**

Some of these early residents continued the medley:

**"The angels beacon me to heaven's open door,  
And I can't feel at home in this 'place' any more."**

**AND SO:**

### **THE ANGELS BEACONED AND THE CHARTER MEMBERS ORGANIZED A CHURCH**



**MR. & MRS. J. W. MILLER ARE CHARTER MEMBERS.** J. W. Miller was the first registered messenger to the Yates Baptist Association from Butner Baptist Church. He gave \$1.95 to the Association and told them he wanted five copies of their minutes for the 1949 session of the association.

Back home in Butner, Wade says he worked three years for Public Safety. He switched jobs and started working as an attendant on the wards. His wife, Mrs. Udell worked as an attendant. They have both retired from state employment and live in Butner. They are now members of Olive Grove Baptist Church.

Mr. Miller had a "dinner bell" that was used for many years as a church bell in the old chapel.

Wade said he was a Methodist, but one afternoon he saw Oren Bradley out cutting weeds around the old "Chapel No. 1" and asked Reverend Bradley what he was doing. The Reverend responded, "We are starting a Baptist Church, and we are going to use this building."

Wade said that he asked Reverend Bradley if he could be a part of this new church, and, of course he was told that he could. He & his wife did become members. Mrs. Miller bought the Baldwin organ from the church, used it for a number of years and sold it to the Union Baptist Church where it is being used today. See the picture of this organ in the music section of this history.



**GLADYS AND DAN GRAY WERE THERE THAT DAY.** They have, like most of the Charter Members, raised their children in the church they helped organize. They don't look much older now than they did then.

They came to Butner when John Umstead opened. Gladys was Secretary of Medical Records and Dan was Assistant Supervisor of the Warehouse.

Gladys was Director of W. M.U. in 1951 and Dan was one of the three people who served on the Pulpit Committee when the Reverend Hal Helms was called as pastor. (See the procedure this Committee followed when they recommended Brother Helms to the church. This can be seen in

the section on the pastors.)



**Mr. And Mrs. A. C. Bowden** were also there for the big event for Butner. "The 19<sup>th</sup>. of September, 1948, is a day that will go down in the history of this community. We are going to be there, and Deuard and Sylvia are going to be there too."

Mrs. Bowden worked as a sewing room operator, switchboard operator, and lining room supervisor at the hospital. She and A.C. were raising two children, Deuard and Sylvia. She had her hands full. Since A. C. worked as an attendant supervisor, he too worked long hours and when someone didn't show up for work he had to cover for them. Nope, it wasn't easy with all they had to do- working about twelve hours a day, six days a week, (Most of the time), while

keeping house and raising the children.



Hard work! That's what it was. But it was worth it. Especially after they organized the church. The kids were getting some wholesome activity now, and they were getting spiritual training.



Sylvia are seen.

**Deuard and Sylvia Bowden were there when the church was organized and the picture of the charter members was taken. They too are Charter Members.**

Deuard and Sylvia were smaller then! Mrs. Frances showed me a picture of Deuard (taken when he was sixteen). He did have a full head of beautiful wavy hair.

In the picture at the left Deuard, his mother and

**JAMES BROGDEN WAS A SIXTEEN-YEAR-OLD BOY AT THE TIME HE BECAME A CHARTER MEMBER** of The Butner Baptist Church on September 16, 1948. His father Edgar, his mother Louise, his sister Mae, (All three have since died) and his sister Barbara, who now lives in Woodbine, Georgia, were also there that day. They too were charter members.



James now lives on Sam-Hayes Road near Creedmoor with his wife Alice. (She is the daughter of the late Battle Washington.) They have two children and four grandchildren.

James enlisted in the Marines as a young man and served in the Korean War. After discharge from the Marines he worked for the FAA for thirty-three years. In retirement he worked for Southern Pallet for fourteen years.

He and his wife are now enjoying retirement at their home which is located near the golf course near Creedmoor



**JOHN AND MILDRED DANIEL'S ARE CHARTER MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH.** They were there that day! And, they were there whenever work was to be done in the church over many years- the majority of the past fifty years.



John ran the Carpenter Shop at the hospital and Mildred worked in the Sewing Room. They both worked in the church after it was organized. Mildred was a Sunday School Teacher and John was a deacon.

On September 12, 1956, announcement was made in Church Conference that The Flat River Baptist Association would meet at

the Butner Church on October 17, 1956. The Minutes read, "Mrs. John Daniel was put in charge of getting enough food to feed our guests for that day". We are sure the Baptists of the Association were fed , and fed well.

John went to be with the Lord in 1990. Miss Mildred is going strong and attends church as regular as possible.

**MR. & MRS. GROVER JACOBS ARE CHARTER MEMBERS OF THE FIRST CHURCH.** The day the church was organized Mrs. Jacobs was the Pianist. She was seated at the piano when the Charter Member picture was taken.



Her work consisted of assisting her sister in a portrait shop in Durham. She worked there, evidently, all of her working career. She is now in a Nursing Home in Warren County. Those who have visited her recently say that she is very much aware of all that is going on around her, and, in many instances, she is aware of what is going on in Butner.

Mr. Jacobs worked at Grounds -Maintenance at John Umstead Hospital all of his career. He retired from the state and died in 1990.

**MR. MRS. FRED COLEY ARE CHARTER MEMBERS OF THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF BUTNER.**



In 1948, Fred Coley , along with another gentleman, operated the chicken farm for the state. Fred was active in his church after it was begun. He and Mrs. Coley were elected deacons of the church. She and Louise Thomas were the two first women elected and ordained to the deaconship. Fred had to work a lot of Sundays because of the nature of his work. Mrs. Coley was the second Director of the WMU, the first Director of the BTU where participation was shown in the minutes. She had 47 enrolled the year she served as Director.

She was one of two women who were first ordained as deaconesses. Mrs. Coley and Mrs. Louise Thomas were elected and ordained at the same time. Mr. & Mrs. Coley's son James said that Mrs. Coley died at

the age of 53. She died in 1967. Mr. Coley died in 1990.



## **CHAPTER TWO**

### **WHO WERE THESE PEOPLE WHO ORGANIZED A CHURCH IN BUTNER?**

At this point we have seen the background of the organization of the Butner Baptist Church. We have looked back to the existence of a Baptist witness in the area prior to World war II, and we have seen that there was indeed an organized Baptist witness in the area. We have mentioned the Concord Baptist Church and The Knapp of Reeds Baptist Church as illustration of this Baptist Witness in the area.

However, we have also seen that there was very little connection between the Baptist Churches that existed prior to the war and the new church that was organized in 1948. There is no evidence that the charter members had been members of the churches that existed prior to the war. We have seen that the only connection between the pre-war churches and the new church was geographical.

The people of the previous churches had been dispersed to the four winds and the people who organized the new church had arrived on the scene after the army base had been abandoned and after the State of North Carolina replaced the army hospital with The State Hospital at Butner, later renamed John Umstead Hospital, in 1947.

Therefore we may now move directly to an observance of the persons who came to the Camp Reservation to work at the newly established State Hospital for the Mentally Ill.

### **THE ORGANIZERS WERE NOT THE SOUTHERN ARISTOCRACY**

There had lived on the farms in the area prior to the war a great many people who traced their family ancestry back for hundreds of years. Many of these were the large land owners. When these were dispersed by the army in 1941 and 1942, they did not return and take the jobs that were offered by the State Hospital following the war.

If the pre-war residents, who had been well known in the area prior to the war, had been rebuilding their church the Flat River Association would have been the first to give every assistance. This was not the case, however. Those who moved upon the scene in 1947 and shortly thereafter were a strange people in a strange land who did not see themselves as permanent residents of the area. In fact the majority of these people saw themselves as temporary residents of, what amounted to a state village. Most of them lived in what they considered to be temporary quarters. Some even lived in areas that were referred to as bachelor's quarters. The Baptists of the Flat River Association did not extend the help that fellow Baptists ought to have extended. **Did they snub the Butner Baptists ? Yes!**

# **WHO WERE THESE PEOPLE?**

## **THEY WERE A PEOPLE OF A COVENANT!**

Soon after the organization of the Butner Baptist Church the process of adopting a Constitution was begun. When Christ was with his disciples He was their Constitution, Articles of Faith and Bi-Laws. They didn't need a written document. The Baptists of Butner in 1948 recognized the need for a document that would insure order and discipline. Norman Kelley was evidently a man who had previous knowledge of Baptist polity and practice. He was one of the leaders in drawing up a Constitution.

I will not write out the entire Constitution but will quote some of the passages from it and give an overview of the document.

### **“Proposed Constitution For Butner Baptist Church”**

#### **Preamble**

For the more certain preservation and security of the principles of our faith, and to the end that this body may be governed in an orderly manner consistent with the accepted tenants of the missionary baptist denomination, and for the purpose of preserving the liberties inherent in each individual member of this church and the freedom of action of this body with respect to its relation to other churches of the same faith, we do declare and establish this constitution.

#### **I. NAME**

This body shall be known as The Butner Baptist Church.

#### **II. ARTICLES OF FAITH**

The Articles of Faith commonly known as “The New Hampshire Confession” constitute The Articles of Faith held by this body.

#### **III. OUR CHURCH COVENANT**

In adopting this Constitution we do solemnly enter into a solemn covenant with God and with one another.

“Having been led ,as we believe, by the spirit of God, to receive the Lord Jesus Christ

as our Saviour, and, on profession of our faith, having been baptized in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, we do now, in the presence of God, angels, and this assembly, most solemnly and joyfully, enter into covenant with one another, as one body in Christ.”

“We engage, therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit, to walk together in Christian love; to strive for the advancement of this church, in knowledge, in holiness, and comfort; to promote its prosperity and spirituality; to sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline and doctrines. To contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the church, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the Gospel through all nations.”

“We also engage to maintain family and secret devotion; to educate our children religiously; to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances.”

“To walk circumspectly in the world; to be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements, and exemplary in our deportment; to avoid all tattling, backbiting and excessive anger; to abstain from the sale and use of intoxicating drinks as a beverage; and to be zealous in our efforts to advance the Kingdom of our Saviour.”

“We further engage to watch over one another in brotherly love; to remember each other in prayer; to aid each other in sickness and distress; to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and courtesy in speech; to be slow to take offense but always ready for reconciliation and, mindful of the rules of our Saviour, to secure it without delay.”

“We moreover engage that when we remove from this place, we will as soon as possible unite with some other church, where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principle of God’s Word.”

## **DISCUSSION OF THE ARTICLES OF FAITH.**

You will note that Article number II states: “The Articles of Faith commonly known as ‘The New Hampshire Confession’ constitute the articles of faith held by this body.”

When this church made the decision to declare that the articles of faith commonly known as **The New Hampshire Confession** would constitute the articles of faith held by this body they had a choice as between adopting the declaration that **The Philadelphia Confession** or **The New Hampshire Confession** would constitute their Articles of Faith.

In the book, “A Baptist Treasury” published by Thomas Y. Crowell Company in 1958, and written by Sydnor L. Stealey, a thorough discussion of these two Confessions of Faith is given. (The Granville County Library has a copy of this book. The writer commends this book to all Baptists.)

On page 48 of this book the author states, “The Philadelphia Confession” is really a slightly enlarged edition of the Second London Confession that was adopted by Particular Baptists in 1689. He further states that this Confession was based firmly on the Presbyterians’ Westminster Confession of 1648. The Westminster Confession is strictly Calvinistic in those areas that deal with the doctrine of Election.



After a discussion of the differences between the Philadelphia and the New Hampshire Confession, Dr. Crowell states that The New Hampshire Confession had wide circulation in all parts of the country except the Southeastern area. He said that the Philadelphia Confession had a "strong prior hold in this area." In spite of this strong prior hold in the Southeastern area of the country the leadership that organized the Butner Baptist Church chose to adopt the New Hampshire Confession. It is most evident that the key to this decision centered on the matter of MISSIONS. The following paragraph will give further explanation concerning the relationship of missions and the adoption of the New Hampshire Confession by the Butner Baptist Church.

The Calvinistic doctrine of Election in the Philadelphia Confession says that salvation occurs as a result of God's initiative entirely and that man's actions do not enter the picture. Therefore, if man can't do anything about his own or the salvation of another person there is no basis for missions. The Primitive Baptists hold the views expressed in the Philadelphia Confession and many Missionary Baptist Churches in the Southeastern part of the country came out of the Primitive Baptist fellowship because these Missionary Baptists came to believe in missions.

The Leadership and the early members of The Butner Baptist Church believed in Missions.

## **THESE WERE A PEOPLE WITH A MISSION**

Having begun as a Mission of The Baptist Council of Durham and Vicinity and having been sustained as a Mission of the North Carolina Baptist Convention- Department of State Missions, it is not surprising that the Butner Baptist Church was, indeed, a church with a mission.

Details of the sponsorship of the Butner Church by the Durham Council are given in the section dealing with the organization of the church. Details of North Carolina Baptists providing the sustaining force that Butner needed will be given in the section.

However, the reader should recognize at this point that those persons who were the organizers of the church saw themselves as a people who needed that which a church would have to offer, and they saw themselves as unable to provide this church without the assistance of others. They therefore sought the assistance of The Durham Council, North Carolina Baptists and, to some degree, the state of North Carolina- especially the agencies of the state that were represented on the local scene.

## **INITIAL BUILDINGS GIVEN TO CHURCH**

The Durham Council paid only \$1500.00 to the War Assets Administration for the first home of the Butner Baptist Church. They paid only \$400.00 for an old Post Office building that was evidently exchanged for one of the old dining halls. The state charged a minimal amount for the land upon which the church buildings were placed.

Therefore it is apparent that the state assisted the church in its initial buildings and grounds needs. ( I have heard that much help was rendered by state employees during the construction phases of the various buildings. If this occurred no record would have been kept for this kind of assistance.)

In light of the stated mission of the church the state should have assisted the church in these initial organizational steps. The first stationary the church used gave the stated mission of the church at that time as: "Serving the Personnel and ministering to the patients and inmates of the state hospital at Butner, The Butner Youth Center, The Butner Training School, and the Pre-conditioning Center for the Blind."

## **INSTITUTIONAL PERSONNEL WERE THE ORGANIZERS OF THE CHURCH!!**

The work of these first members of the church was physically and emotionally draining. They found themselves ministering to a patient-prisoner load whose needs were so unique and great that they constantly took from the energies of the staff but were not in position to give anything in return. The staff found themselves constantly facing the possibility of emotional burn-out.

They needed the refueling of their souls. They needed a spiritual presence for the restoration of meaningfulness.

These were a people who needed to worship God and to relate to their fellow workers on another level. One would suspect that those who came to Butner from a church related background and began working in one of the institutions became spiritually hungry. Their long hours on duty prevented them from returning to their home churches on a regular basis. It is likely that some of these organizers financially supported their home churches in addition to giving support to the newly organized church.

Financial assistance was essential for this new congregation. Numerous individuals have related that the salaries at the State Institutions were low at that time and the membership of this new congregation couldn't afford to contribute much to their church. Assistance was made available from The Baptist Council of Durham and Vicinity and from the North Carolina Baptist Convention's State Missions Department.

## **BUTNER BAPTIST RECEIVED STATE MISSIONS AID AS A MISSION OF BAPTISTS, THE CHURCH RECEIVED MINISTERIAL AID.**

The first indication that the Butner Baptist Church was going to ask for and receive Ministerial Aid from The Baptist State Convention's State Missions Department was in January, 1949. The Executive Committee of The Yates Association approved a request from the Butner Church for Ministerial Aid. Each Association was required to approve any church's request for this aid from the State Convention. This aid supplemented the pastor's salary during the time he was on duty as pastor of the designated church. The Church Treasurer was required to submit a report to the State Convention each six months. In this report the Treasurer was asked to give the number of miles the pastor traveled, the number of visits the pastor made, the number of persons joining the church by Baptism and by Letter and other pertinent information.

The Butner Baptist Church was initially approved to receive \$2,150.00 per year. This amount diminished each year by 10 per cent. No pastor could receive more than \$3,300.00 per year from the combination of the amount the church paid and the amount of the ministerial aid. Other requirements were that the pastor was required to live on the church field, and that no aid would be given to a pastor who served a church which had more than 400 members.

In 1952 the Butner pastor was receiving a total of \$1,350.00 which was payable at the rate of \$112.50 per month. The 1953 State Missions allocation for Butner was \$1,200.00, payable at \$100.00 per month. One thousand and eighty dollars was Butner's allocation for 1954; this was payable to the pastor at the rate of \$90.00 per month. On January 27, 1957, the church was called into conference and L. B. Perkinson read a letter from the State Missions Board which stated that the ministerial aid for the church and pastor had been cut from \$75.00 to \$63.00 per month. Motion was made by Norman Kelley and seconded by John Daniel that the budget be increased to make up for this change.

We do not have information regarding the conclusion of Ministerial Aid that is adequate to say exactly when the ministerial aid was discontinued at Butner Baptist Church. However, based on the information the Reverend Bush submitted to The State Missions Department in the letter to Dr. Earl Bradley on May 4, 1962, and on other information from the minutes, we believe that this aid was discontinued by the beginning of 1958.

Remember that the policy of State Missions was that the amount of the aid would be cut by ten per cent each year and that the aid was begun in 1949. Had the church received this aid without interruption from February, 1949, the policy would have discontinued the aid automatically at the end of 1958. However, the church was without a pastor for some extended periods of time during that ten year period and the aid could have, conceivably, been extended beyond February, 1959. I believe, however, that Brother Bush received his last ministerial aid check in 1958. He received \$63.00 a month from February through December, 1957. He could have received \$57.00 per month throughout 1958. In light of statements he made in the article for The Biblical Recorder, (Which is given below) , I think that he encouraged the church to request that the aid be discontinued at the beginning of 1958.

When the church became able to stand on its own two feet there was a little stigma inherent in sort of being considered to have "Mission status" in the eyes of the state leadership. I think the leadership of the church had this aid discontinued after October, 1957.

With the Ministerial Aid coming to an end and the church becoming self-supporting The Butner Baptist Church ceased to have Mission status. It then became completely independent.



# **BUTNER BAPTIST, THE MISSION CHURCH ,BECAME A MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH**

On May 4, 1962, the Reverend Bush wrote the following letter:

Dr. Earle Bradley  
Baptist Building  
301 Hillsboro Street  
Raleigh, N. C.

Dear Dr. Bradley:

I am enclosing the article you request concerning Butner to be used by the Biblical Recorder for the promotion of State Missions.

We appreciate your coming and helping us in our revival services recently, and want to assure you that you have been a great help. We would be glad to have you come and visit us whenever you can.

Sincerely.

Butner Baptist Church

Warren T. Bush, Pastor

The article the Reverend Bush refers to is printed below. This article validates the work of the Organizers of the Butner Baptist Church. The Mission had become a Missionary.

## **(ARTICLE ON PROMOTION OF STATE MISSIONS)**

“The Butner Baptist Church would like to give thanks and recognition to North Carolina State Missions for all the help and service it received when it was sorely needed.

We are proud now to be able to give to State Missions instead of receiving in order that they may continue their wonderful work in assisting young churches in organizing and financing their programs.

Since its origin The Butner Baptist Church has become a unit of service for not only the local community but for the entire state of North Carolina. It serves the whole state in a three-fold manner: by ministering to youth prisoners of Umstead Youth Center, students at the North Carolina Rehabilitation Center for the Blind, and patients at the North Carolina Alcoholic Rehabilitation Center.

The Umstead Youth Center inmates attend both Sunday School and church every Sunday. One of the Sunday School classes has an average attendance of thirty-five boys each Sunday.

Students at the Blind Center also attend Sunday services and are offered a church home during their stay at Butner. Last year one of these students had the call from God to preach the Gospel of Christ. At his request the Butner Baptist Church approved him for study at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, North Carolina. He is at present the only blind student attending Southeastern Seminary.

Patients at the North Carolina Alcoholic Rehabilitation Center also attend services at Butner Baptist Church. Some of these patients have indicated that after their attendance it was their first contact with a church in as much as ten years.

The pastor of the Butner Baptist Church councils with the afore mentioned groups from the various institutions concerning their spiritual needs and other problems they have.

The teacher of the class of boys from Umstead Youth Center is most enthusiastic about his work. He feels that the work he is able to do with these boys to be one of the most important things that he has ever done in his life in helping to give these young men an insight into the true spiritual values of life.

When the pastor of Butner Baptist Church became pastor five and one half years ago, he led the church toward its first goal of being self-supporting. This was accomplished in a short time and the church has increased its gifts to the Cooperative Program year by year even though they have built an Educational Building, installed new pews in the sanctuary and done extensive repairs and renovations on existing property of the church. During this same period of time we have experienced a steady and continuous growth in membership, which has been most gratifying to all concerned and we look forward to the future with utmost confidence.”

(This article was written for The Biblical Recorder and was copied here exactly as the original document.)

## **BUTNER BAPTIST CHURCH FOUND ITSELF IN THE MIDST OF A MISSIONS FIELD!**

As is indicated in the article above written for The Biblical Recorder, The Butner Baptist Church saw its existence and purpose as these related to the institutions in which many of the members worked from day to day. They could not separate their reason for existence apart from the recognition of their own spiritual needs, and the spiritual needs of the staff, patients and inmates of these institutions. Members and Missions Leaders in the church made time to hold programs or services in the institutions. AND, as is stated in Reverend Bush's article above, inmates or residents of these institutions attended Sunday School and Church at The Butner Baptist Church.

This writer found the above very interesting because he had found, in reading the minutes of the Yates and the Flat River Associations, that individuals and groups in these Associations had long realized an opportunity for missions work in the institutions of Butner. From a time, even before the Yates Association was organized, individuals and groups in Durham had come to Butner and visited what they called The Colony at the time. They went back to their organizations and gave glowing reports about the satisfaction they received from having ministered to the children of The Colony.

## **HAS THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH LOST ITS ZEAL IN THE LOCAL MISSIONS ENDEAVOR?**

It is the opinion of this writer that the answer to the above question is “no”.- Not a resounding “No”, but no, non-the-less. The First Baptist Church of Butner would provide missions activities in the various institutions if it were really challenged to do so.

After an extensive discussion with Brother Lenny Rogers, Assistant Superintendent- in charge of Programs- at Umstead Corrections Center, I found that the practice described above wherein thirty-five young people attended the church on a regular basis was discontinued as a state initiative rather than the church simply discontinuing the practice. In the early seventies Umstead Youth Center started busing the young men to different churches in Butner. That is, the institution alternated as between the Baptist, Methodist, Presbyterian and Pine Grove ( Colored ) Baptist Church on different Sundays. As the custody levels at the institution changed , requiring a higher staff-to-inmate ratio, this practice became a burden to the institution and the practice was discontinued by the institution rather than by the church.

First Baptist Church must reconcile an apparent inconsistency when we realize that the Flat River Association and other churches outside of Butner are finding ways to do missions work in the institutions of Butner and, apart from the work of the WMU of our church, the First Baptist Church seems to have withdrawn into a shell where these mission opportunities are concerned.

The first stationary of the church had this as a clear mission of the Butner Baptist Church, “Serving the personnel and ministering to the patients of the state hospital at Butner, The Butner Youth Center, The Butner Training School and the Pre-conditioning Center for the Blind.”

On January 12, 1994, the Minutes of the church state that the deacons of the church voted to deny BATC students access to the Sunday School and Worship Services of the church.

This matter clearly demonstrates that the mission of the church changed from that which was clearly stated when the church was organized, and was practiced during the 1950's, 1960's and early 1970's. (Rev. Bush stated in 1962, that the church had a class with thirty-five young men in it who were inmates at Umstead Correctional Facility.)



**First Baptist may find consolation in the fact that every Baptist, every Christian who works in one of the institutions is a missionary. The Butner Baptist and the First Baptist Church had and has many Christians who work day after day and side by side with staff and residents in these institutions. These have the opportunity to witness for Christ each day.**

**I know. I have been there.**

**Our forefathers were a people with a mission. They recognized, declared and performed that mission on the local scene.**

## **SOME LOCAL MISSIONS WORK CONTINUES THROUGH THE WORK OF THE WMU!**

Mary Bradsher-Strickland has led effectively and long in the work of the W.M.U. In order to get a better perspective on just what this organization is doing in the area of Missions I asked Mrs. Strickland to write a concise statement describing their work. This is her statement:

### **THE WMU AND THE MISSIONS ENDEAVOR ! By Mary Strickland**



“Some of the mandates of the WMU are to pray for missions, teach missions and do missions. Each meeting includes prayer for missionaries as well as a teaching segment related to missions work. The most rewarding activity for members of the WMU, however, is the doing of missions. The Women on Missions Group regularly provide social activity and entertainment for the patients at Brantwood Nursing Home in Oxford, John Umstead Geriatric Unit, Umstead Correction Center and the Alcohol and Drug Addiction Treatment Center (ADATC) in Butner. Additionally once a year they provide a covered dish dinner for the residents of Damascus Home and join these young men in a time of food

and fellowship. Women on Mission also provide food and assistance in serving for the Migrant Day Picnic held for the Hispanic migrant workers in Granville County each Summer. Contributions are also made by the WMU for refreshments for the Vacation Bible Schools held at the Masonic Home for children in Oxford and in some of the local housing developments and in Traylor Parks in the area. Birthday gifts are contributed at the C.A. Dillon facility and Christmas gifts are donated for a resident at Murdock Center.

The Missions Friends and G. A. groups also provide support in keeping with their age-level capabilities as they learn about and do missions.



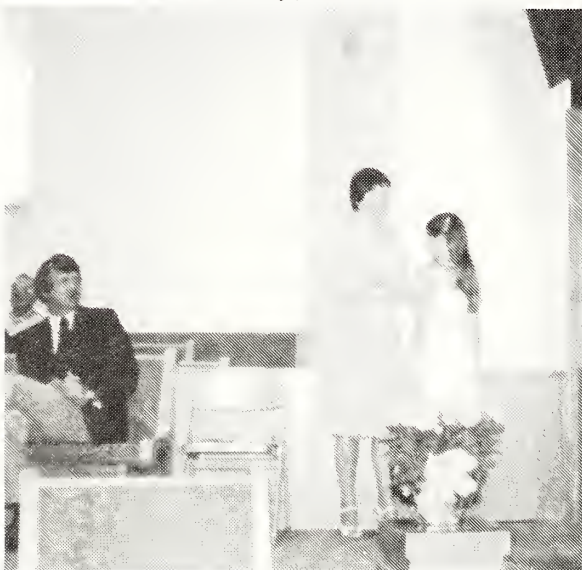
Besides these group activities, many of the women engage in volunteer work on an individual basis-visiting the sick and shut-ins, sending cards, working with the Church and Community Ministries of the Flat River Association and Community Projects in Butner. Most are also quite active in the ministries of First Baptist Church. “

## ORGANIZERS ALSO HAD A WORLD VISION

In 1950, Mrs. Fred Coley was W.M.U. Director; they had 25 ladies enrolled in their Missionary program. They gave \$57.40 to missions. If you will observe the Missions Report page toward the end of this history you will note that it took nine years for the ladies to challenge the men and give enough themselves to reach \$1000.00 in Missions gifts during one year.

(Pastor Scott Good looks on as Mrs. Dolly Rooks pins a G.A.

Award on Charlene Emory.)



Mrs. Robert Jones and Mrs. Myrtie Rich were leaders when they reached the \$1,000 mark.

Mrs. Roy Barham and Mrs. Hazel Fisher were leaders when they reached the \$2,000 mark, and, in 1969, twenty-one years after the church was organized, and while Mrs. Nellie Faircloth was leader, they reached the \$4,000 plateau in missions gifts. In 1975, while Mrs. Sidney Gupton, (Miss. Mollie) was leader, these ladies led the church to give \$8,132.00 to missions. In 1978, with Mrs. Shanks Bradsher as leader, the church gave \$10,000 to missions for the first time in its history. In

1986, with Mrs. Oie Boyce as leader, the church gave \$15,653.00 to missions, and in the very next year, with Mrs. Shanks (Mary) Bradsher as leader again, the church gave \$23,000 to missions. The next year, 1988, with Mrs. Bradsher still leading, the church gave a record \$36,272.00 to missions. That record has not been attained since that 1988 high mark.

In 1997, with Mrs. Mary Bradsher Strickland again leading, missions gifts were \$30,074.00.

Total missions gifts over the forty-seven year period, 1950-1997, have been \$469,507.74.

By the year 2000, this church will have given well over one half million dollars to missions. In 1996, First Baptist Butner gave \$30,491 total missions; First Baptist Creedmoor gave \$35,258.00, Pleasant Grove gave \$69,596.00 total missions, and Oxford Baptist gave a total of \$108,255 total missions.

That is, only three churches in the Flat River Baptist Association exceeded Butner's gifts to missions. Mrs. W. E. Bullock was the first W.M.U. Director and Mrs. Mary Strickland is presently serving as Director. Mrs. Strickland has served nine years as director, longer than any other woman. Additionally, Mrs. Strickland has served as W. M. U. Director for the Flat River Baptist Association.



Bob and Louise Thomas were early leaders in the church. Louise and Mrs. Fred Coley were the first women ever ordained to the Deaconship at Butner Baptist.

Bob has died but Louise plans to be here for the Fiftieth Anniversary.

## Missions Report

Year	WMU Director	Number Enrolled	Total Missions Gift	
1949	Mrs. W. E. Bullock	14		
1950	Mrs. Fred Coley	25	\$	57.41
1951	Mrs. J. A. Marshburn	48	\$	50.00
1952	Mrs. Gladys Gray	52	\$	628.95
1953	Mrs. Adele Turnage	61	\$	674.65
1954	Mrs. Adele Turnage	61	\$	674.65
1955	Mrs. Pearl Shearin	84	\$	713.08
1956	Mrs. Robert Jones	74	\$	480.00
1957	Mrs. Robert Jones	46	\$	1,124.00
1958	Mrs. W. M. Rich	70	\$	1,031.00
1959	Mrs. W. M. Rich	49	\$	1,119.00
1960	Mrs. Watt Helms	55	\$	1,292.00
1961	Mrs. Roy Barham	65	\$	1,384.00
1962	Mrs. Roy Barham	74	\$	1,619.00
1963	Mrs. Hazel Fisher	46	\$	2,011.00
1964	Mrs. Hazel Fisher	46	\$	2,009.00
1965	Mrs. Hazel Fisher	52	\$	2,234.00
1966	Mrs. Watt Helms	40	\$	2,661.00
1967	Mrs. Homer Isom	49	\$	2,818.00
1968	Mrs. Nellie Faircloth	36	\$	2,792.00
1969	Mrs. Nellie Faircloth	37	\$	4,244.00
1970	Mrs. Nellie Faircloth	36	\$	2,618.00
1971	Mrs. M. W. Ellis	37	\$	3,602.00
1972	Mrs. Robert Rogers	31	\$	4,538.00
1973	Mrs. Robert Rogers	40	\$	4,202.00
1974	Mrs. Robert Rogers	38	\$	2,706.00
1975	Mrs. Sydney Gup-ton	20	\$	8,132.00
1976	Mrs. Sydney Gup-ton	30	\$	2,232.00
1977	Mrs. Shanks Bradsher	27	\$	2,239.00
1978	Mrs. Shanks Bradsher	27	\$	10,142.00
1979	Mrs. Lawrence Vines	25	\$	8,811.00
1980	Mrs. Carolyn James	34	\$	9,115.00
1981	Mrs. Carolyn James	42	\$	10,425.00
1982	Mrs. Bess Bush	30	\$	11,952.00
1983	Mrs. Melba Bailey	30	\$	6,223.00
1984	Mrs. Oie Boyce	37	\$	13,921.00
1985	Mrs. Oie Boyce	28	\$	14,269.00
1986	Mrs. Oie Boyce	39	\$	15,653.00
1987	Mrs. Mary Bradsher	44	\$	23,000.00
1988	Mrs. Mary Strickland	23	\$	36,272.00
1989	Mrs. Mary Strickland	53	\$	26,117.00
1990	Mrs. Mary Strickland	49	\$	28,143.00
1991	Mrs. Mary Strickland	48	\$	27,233.00
1992	Mrs. Mary Strickland	40	\$	24,360.00
1993	Mrs. Christine Emory	36	\$	25,663.00
1994	Mrs. Christine Emory	32	\$	30,733.00
1995	Mrs. Christine Emory	52	\$	27,025.00
1996	Mrs. Christine Emory	44	\$	30,491.00
1997	Mrs. Mary Strickland	55	\$	30,074.00
Total Missions Contributions over fifty-year period —			\$	469,507.74



## CHAPTER THREE

### PASTORS OF THE BUTNER BAPTIST CHURCH AND THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF BUTNER



**Rev. Oren Bradley** was the Superintendent of Missions for the Baptist Council of Durham and Vicinity. It appears that he was the single greatest influence among the people of Camp Butner in the planning and organization of the Butner Baptist Church. It was he who held the revival that commenced on September 5, 1948. The church was organized just after the conclusion of this revival.

Therefore, we know that he served the "Butner Baptist Church" Mission as pastor until the end of January, 1949. The following letter from Brother Bradley not only gives us a time/frame for his services

as pastor, but the contents tell us much about the man.

February 28, 1949

Mr. Joe Eason, Treasurer  
Butner Baptist Church  
Butner, N. C.

Dear Brother Eason:

I am enclosing a check for \$40.00 for the church. I suppose that we will be moving our membership to some Durham church, but we wanted the church there to have this part of our tithe.

Let us know if you need any money in completing the house. We will try to do what we can for you. I shall be out of town this week from Wednesday through Friday noon. If you have to see us about it you can contact Brother Morris.

With Kindest regards, I remain,

Most Sincerely,  
(Signed)  
Rev. R. Oren Bradley

**The Reverend E. R. Andrews** became pastor on February 20, 1949 and our best information is that he served as pastor until the end of August, 1949. We have found almost no printed information about Brother Andrews. ( About 6 months ) I learned from Brother Wade Miller that Brother Andrews was an epileptic and that, while he had told the leadership of the church, he had not told everyone. He had a seizure as people were leaving the church one Sunday and many people were frightened. It seems he was pastor of Olive Grove and Butner during the six month period he served.

The Millers think he is now diseased.

**The Reverend Clyde F. Melton** became pastor in December of 1949 and served as pastor at Butner until December of 1950. ( About 1 year.)

(Sorry, we don't have a picture of Brother Melton.)

This writer found it most interesting that the Pulpit Committee was so thorough when they had decided to recommend Brother Melton as pastor of the church. Their recommendation was accompanied by what we could call A Memorandum of Understanding. The Memorandum said:

**“ The Pulpit Committee of the Butner Baptist Church wishes to make the following recommendation the church:**

**First:** that the church extend a call to Rev. Clyde F. Melton to become its pastor;

**Second:** that the church agree to pay its pastor a salary of : \$250.00 per month. This salary contingent upon (receiving) the \$2,100 annually from the State Missions Department.

**That the church agree to furnish also, free of charge, house, water, lights, and fuel to the pastor;**

**Third:** That the church agree to give its pastor two weeks vacation with pay, annually, this two weeks to be taken as the pastor sees fit.

**Fourth:** That the church agree to give its pastor the privilege of conducting revivals in other churches, using his own discretion as to how many and what time, and with the pastor paying his own supply for the time he is away from the church.

**Fifth:** that the church agree to give its pastor at least ninety days notice if at any time a change is desired, and that the pastor be required to give the church six weeks notice in like event.

These recommendations are made by the Pulpit Committee after careful and prayerful consideration, and after consultation with the acting pastor, the deacons and other members of the church.

Signed Della Evans

Daniel Gray

John Daniel

## **BROTHER MELTON AND THE CHURCH ORGAN**

Another matter of interest during Brother Clyde Melton's pastorate was the purchase of the church organ. The organ, a Connsonata, sold for \$1,485.00. The agreement was that the church would pay \$485.00 down, and pay the remainder in 24 equal installments of \$44.75 . The organ was purchased on August 8, 1950, and it appeared that all was settled and in good faith. However, on December 11, 1952, the church received the following letter from Rev. Clyde Melton: (He had become pastor of The Providence Baptist Church at Oxford at the time the letter below was written

### **PROVIDENCE BAPTIST CHURCH**

Clyde Franklin Melton, Pastor

October 11, 1952

Miss Lila Piper,  
Church Secretary

Mrs. Clyde Melton,  
Church Organist

Butner Baptist Church  
Butner, North Carolina

Dear friends: (Sic)

According to the contract under which your Consonata organ was purchased, it was to be paid for on or before October, 1952. It was also agreed upon that if I would make possible the purchasing of the organ by making the down-payment of \$385.00, that when the contract with the bank or finance company was terminated, the church would repay the initial payment to me if the church was still progressing.

As yet I have not been contacted with reference to making satisfactory arrangements for settlement of the down-payment. It is not difficult for me to understand how this could have been overlooked. However, I should appreciate your prompt attention in this matter.

With warmest regards and best wishes to all the friends at Butner, I am,

Sincerely Yours,

( Signed )

Clyde Franklin Melton



The following year, in February of 1953, Brother Melton wrote the following letter :  
1508 Wakefield Place  
New Orleans, La.

Mr. Leon Perkinson, Treas.  
Butner Baptist Church  
Butner, North Carolina

Dear Leon;

This is the third month that the church has failed in making any payments on the organ debt. I am sure you are not responsible, therefore, I am not directing this to you personally.

However, it is a bad policy for a church to neglect her financial responsibilities. Knowing the people at Butner as I thought I did, it is difficult for me to realize anyone of them allowing such carelessness in the matter of meeting their obligations.

I shall appreciate it if the payments are brought up to date. I am in school and I need it very much. With warm regards to you, Carolyn and the kiddies, I am,

Sincerely Yours  
(Signed)  
Clyde Melton

Therefore, we do know that the church purchased an organ during Brother Melton's ministry. We, who are writing this history nearly fifty years later, do hope that the church "met its obligation" and paid Brother Melton for the down-payment on the organ. We are sure that this was done.



### **The Reverend Hal McElwaine**

**Helms** preached his first sermon as pastor on August 31, 1951. (The church had been without a pastor since the preceding December, of 1950.) Rev. Helms remained pastor at Butner until June 30, 1954

In a recent letter, in which she sent the above picture, Mrs. Helen Helms related that the Reverend Helms had died in August of 1997. Brother Helms did an excellent work at Butner during its early years. It was he who led the church to request membership in the Flat River Baptist Association. He also led the church in participating in The Forward Program of Church Finance. The effects of this program continued in the life of

the church for years. We extend Christian sympathy to Mrs. Helms.

Almost by accident,(Thanks to Pete & Pat Willis) we found four church bulletins dated July 8, 1951, August 19, 1951, August 26,1951, and August 31, 1951. On July 8<sup>th</sup> they didn't have a sermon. They prayed and sang and had a beautifully organized service. In prayerful lines this note was in that bulletin: "The Pulpit Committee hopes to have a report to make to the church next Sunday. Will you pray with the members of this committee that their report may be made in accordance with God's will?"

The bulletin for August 19<sup>th</sup>. included this paragraph. " As Mr. Dorr speaks to us for the last time today, we would have him know that we are deeply grateful to him for the help he has been to us during the past months. We have enjoyed his messages and have spiritually benefited as well. We hope he will always feel at home here and will come back to visit us from time to time."

The bulletin dated August 26, 1951 had this paragraph: " Let us give thanks that this is our last pastorless Sunday. Rev. & Mrs. Hal Helms and their children will move into the "parsonage" tomorrow and will have a week in the community before Mr. Helms assumes his duties as pastor. Surely, we will not wait for him to seek us out; but will drop by some time during the week to welcome him and his family and let him know who we are."

(Don't you know that Mrs. Helms prayed that the members would wait long enough for her to get the house straightened out!)

## **THE REVEREND HAROLD W. LESTER,** October 10, 1954---

October, 1956. ( The letter below is Rev. Lester's letter of acceptance of the pastorate.)

(Cousin of M.O. Lester.)

White Marsh, Va.

Sept. 30, 1954



Louise Thomas, Clerk  
Butner Baptist Church  
Butner, N.C.

Dear Mrs. Thomas:

It gives me great pleasure to accept the call to be your pastor. We are looking forward with enthusiasm the commencement of our work with you.

I have made the necessary arrangements here so that I can be with you October 10<sup>th</sup>.

Having felt led by the Lord to accept your call, I ask sincerely for your prayers that God's blessings be upon us as a church and pastor working together for his glory.

Prayerfully Yours,

W. Harold Lester

**Note from Brother Lester:**

175 Kirk Drive-  
Newport News, Va., 23608,  
Apr. 8, 1998)

Dear Mr. Smith,

I have been looking for a picture to send you. The one I am sending was taken some time during the '50's. There is nothing of historical importance that I can think of to send you.

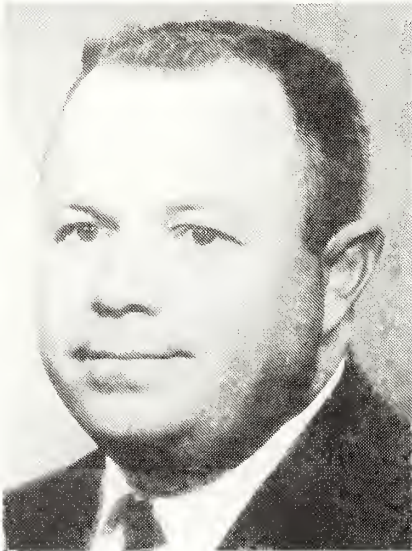
Give my regards to Melvin and Lottie Mae. I hope to see you in September.

Yours truly,  
Harold Lester

( The Reverend Lester is the cousin of Brother Melvin Lester.)

**THE REVEREND WARREN THOMAS BUSH** became pastor in November, 1956. He resigned in July, 1970. ( Thirteen and one/half years later)

Many stories are told by the natives about Brother Bush. All those stories that have been related to this writer reveal a warm, caring human being who related well with people.



One was that, while he personally had little tolerance for alcohol consumption, he was non-judgmental toward those who did take a drink.

My favorite relates the time he was down at the Service Station where a mechanic was attempting to install a steering column. The mechanic had wrestled and hammered to no avail.

The story-teller ,who allegedly was there, says that Brother Bush cleared his throat and said with seriousness, "Joe, I think I had better go so that you can cuss that steering column and finish your job."

The teller of the story said that almost immediately after Brother Bush left the mechanic cussed vociferously and installed the auto part.

All that has been related to me is that Brother Bush was a caring, people pastor, who loved his people and was loved in return.



# **BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES OF FORMER PASTORS DECEASED DURING PAST YEAR WHO WERE MEMBERS OF CHURCHES IN THE FLAT RIVER BAPTIST ASSOCIATION**

## **Reverend Warren Thomas Bush**

Warren Thomas Bush was born May 5, 1923 to Mr. and Mrs. T. G. Bush of Roanoke Rapids, North Carolina. He received his education from Mars Hill College, 1946-47; Wake Forest College, 1947-49 — BS Degree; Duke Divinity School, 1949-53 — Master of Divinity; Southeastern Theological Baptist Seminary receiving various Graduate Studies; Clinical Pastoral Education in the N. C. Memorial Hospital, 1972 as Chaplain Intern.

Bush was ordained in 1948 by the Rosemary Baptist Church, Roanoke Rapids, North Carolina. He pastored the following churches: North Warrenton Baptist Church, North Carolina, 1948-53; Wise Baptist Church, North Carolina, 1949-53; Scottsburg Baptist Church, Virginia, 1953-56; Butner Baptist Church, North Carolina, 1956-70. His last employment was serving as Regional Clinical Chaplain at the N. C. Alcoholic Rehabilitation Center in Butner, North Carolina from 1970 until 1973.

Warren Bush held many offices of service in the Flat River Baptist Association. Some of these being: Moderator, Flat River Baptist Association 1963-64; Member of the General Board, N. C. Baptist State Convention, 1967-71. He was a member of Masonic Lodge No. 697; and also Chaplain (Lt. Col.) in the 3274th U. S. Army Reserve Hospital, Durham, N. C. 1956-73. He received the U. S. Army Commendation Metal for Meritorious Service in 1971.

Bush was married in 1949 to Bess Ruppelt of Charlotte, N. C. and to this union was born three daughters, Nancy, Linda, Phyllis.

His death was on February 11, 1973 and at the time of his death was a member of the Butner Baptist Church.

(The Biographical sketch listed above was scanned from the 1973 Minutes of the Flat River Baptist Association)

Mrs. Bess Bush Perkinson is the widow of The Reverend Warren Bush. She continued to serve in the First Baptist Church of Butner for several years following Reverend Bush's death. She was the third female to be ordained as a deaconess of the church, and she served as Chairperson of the deacons two or three years.



**HONORED**—On Thursday, July 30, the members of the Butner Baptist Church honored the Rev. Warren Bush and his family with a covered dish supper.

The evening was climaxed with the presentation of an engraved five-piece silver service. Rev. Bush has recently resigned as pastor of the Butner Baptist

Church, where he served for 13½ years, to become chaplain with the North Carolina Alcoholic Rehabilitation Program located in Butner.

# **A LETTER FROM BESS BUSH-PERKINSON WRITTEN FOR THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION!**

## **Preface to this chapter:**

Even before this writer joined the First Baptist Church of Butner he came to know Leon Perkinson as an authority on taxes. He had retired from the Business Office at John Umstead Hospital and had begun his business of tax preparation. I found him to be a dedicated, compassionate man, and, while I had not known him as long nor as well as others in the community, I developed a great respect for him. He is an intelligent, jovial man who enjoys clean fun.

After his wife's death I was proud that he was finding companionship with Bess Bush. This was a relationship made in heaven. They were ideal for one another.

I did not know Mrs. Bush well; I had met her and when she and Leon married I, along with the church and community rejoiced with this middle-aged couple.

In the Summer of 1997, Leon, his wife Bess, and his brother and his wife were joy riding and enjoying the company of one another while riding along a highway in Warren County. A van, driven by one who was early on described as a "drunk driver", ran a stop sign and ploughed into the Perkinson car. Leon's brother and his wife were killed, Bess was injured, and Leon's injuries were so serious that many felt that he would not survive. He did survive, however, but received brain damage, and has been hospitalized in one hospital or health center after another since the "accident".

Bess Bush-Perkinson lost her first husband, The Reverend Warren Bush, in 1973, and twenty-five years later suffered the companion-ship loss of her second husband. Yet, she has maintained a wonderful vibrant spirit.

She certainly does not possess a martyr-like attitude, as you will see as you read her letter which follows.

We visited a moment in the back yard when she brought the letter. Without a thought of what her answer would be, I asked, "Do you remember who composed the Pulpit Committee when your husband was called to the pastorate of The Butner Baptist Church?" She laughed boisterously and with a touch of embarrassment and responded, "I remember only one member of this Committee." And, of course, I asked, "And who was that?" Still laughing, she said, "Leon".

We had a good laugh and I promised her, with tongue-in-cheek, that this "long range 'planed' event must be recorded in the history of the church.

Bess Bush-Perkinson lives in Durham and visits Leon every day in the hospice. On behalf of all who knew her former husband, Reverend Bush, and those who know her and Leon, I want to thank her for sharing the following experiences with us.



Dear Mr. Smith;

You suggested that as the Fiftieth Anniversary of the organization of the First Baptist Church , Butner, approached I relate some of my memories of my relationship with the church. Most of what I will say is of a personal nature. You already know the historical events I will mention.

My first recollection of the then Butner Baptist Church is a visit in the Fall of 1956. At the time The Flat River Baptist Association met in annual session in Butner. The sanctuary was filled to capacity and there was an enormous amount of food. ( I've enjoyed Butner's good cooking 'till this day.) We, my husband Warren T. Bush, our two daughters and I had been invited to visit Butner after the visit of the Pulpit Committee when they had attended a church service in Scottsburg, Va., where Warren was pastor.

Following God's leading and the call of the church, we moved to Butner shortly before Thanksgiving, 1956. The Community Thanksgiving Service was already a well established tradition. The Methodist Church hosted the 1956 service. (This was) our first worship experience after we began to make our home in Butner.

#### **(The old chapel)**

Butner Baptist Church building was a converted army chapel. Every nook and cranny was utilized. The adults met in class rooms on either side of the entrance to the sanctuary. The children met in an educational wing, an added former army structure. Also in that wing was a multi-purpose room, the place for various meetings and socials- which we had often. Recreational activities centered mostly in the church in the early days. The small, partially furnished kitchen was the scene of many refreshment preparations.

The Umstead Youth Center brought a bus load of young men to worship every Sunday for years. Some of the young men sang in the choir.

#### **(Student Choir Directors.)**

Early in Warren's pastorate the church began to hire Choir Directors who were students at South Eastern Seminary, and later from Duke Divinity School. Each student was with us only a few years, but their talents were of benefit to us and they gained experience in the music phase of the church work and worship. A few students organized Youth Choirs. One student organized a Youth Choir and they drew from the entire community. This Choir performed several times in various places. We as a family enjoyed our relationship with the student directors over the many Sunday meals they ate with us.

#### **(Need for Christian Education space)**

Memories of those early years are full of the wonderful fellowship of young families. There were so many children that the need for a large building for them was evident early in Warren's ministry. The members were ready to buy additional land and to plan an extensive building program. A Master Plan to be developed in three stages was adopted. It was a great time when



we moved into the first building for children. I recall seeing most of the rooms filled to capacity and more. We wondered how we would ever find enough teachers for all these children. Many adults, however, dedicated themselves to teaching the Bible and leading children to life in Christ.

### **(The new pastorium)**

The next building had to wait until the old parsonage,(Pastorium), could be moved and another one built across the street. I believe it was October, 1965, that we moved into the beautiful, new parsonage. The people of the church were proud to provide this lovely home for their pastoral family. We were happy and blessed to be the first family to enjoy living there.



The Youth Fellowship Hall/Kitchen Building was the last building completed during Warren's time as pastor. This building has been enjoyed and appreciated by the church and the community.

(Mrs. Bush, The David Peachs, the Scott Goods and others enjoy food in the dining hall.)

### **(Youth trips)**

Another pleasant memory is the youth trips to Caswell Baptist Assembly. The parents provided transportation to and from the coast of North Carolina. A rented cottage housed about 20 of our youth and a few adult chaperones.

Warren bought the food and the ladies cooked two meals each day while the youth attended their meetings. We ate the night meal in the Assembly dining room. I think all who went recall these great times together.

### **(The W.M.U.)**

The Woman's Missionary Union, initially, was very strong. It survived times when participation waned, but there were always women who continued to study and participate in Missions. I understand the organization is strong today. It was difficult at times to maintain leadership of the

Girl's Auxiliary (G.A.'s ) because most of our women worked in public jobs. For several years we took girls to G. A. Camp sponsored by Flat River Association at Chowon College. For some of our girls (this was a first visit) to a college campus. I remember one year there were only two girls who could go, and Warren went with them for a week,

**(Chaplain work for Rev. Bush)**

Early in Warren's ministerial Career he was interested in the military chaplaincy. He had served in the National Guard in Virginia and then in North Carolina as Chaplain in an army reserve hospital unit. His vacation time was used each year for the active duty requirements.

**(Serving as pastor and chaplain an outgrowth of the man.)**

For Warren, pastoring and counseling were natural outgrowths of his love for people and his desire to help in difficult times. It was this love that led him into the work of Chaplain at the Alcoholic Rehabilitation Center at Butner. After his resignation from the church in 1970, we moved our church membership to Creedmoor to allow the church to make the transition to a new pastor. We enjoyed our fellowship there, but in about a year we felt the pull to be a part of the church and community where we lived and worked. We returned our membership to Butner a few months before Warren was diagnosed with cancer. I am appreciative even now of the wonderful support of the friends we had loved for a long time. They never let go. They keep on being the caring people they always were.

**(Reverend Peach led in the construction of the new sanctuary.)**

Under the good and capable leadership of David Peach the sanctuary section of the Master Plan was well on its way to completion when Warren died on February 11, 1973. A few weeks before his death we walked into the partially completed building. He thanked God for the dedication of this people who had labored through about fifteen years to accomplish this seemingly impossible task.

**(Mrs. Bush became a leader in her own right.)**

After our youngest daughter went to college I was able to participate in church work more than ever before. In addition to responsibilities in Sunday School and WMU I was honored to be elected a deacon and later (1979) was elected Chairman of the Diaconate. Serving in this different position was enjoyable but challenging at times. I learned more of the depth of dedication and talents of those who served with me. Under the insightful leadership of Scott Good, we worked toward becoming servants of the church in addition to financial leaders. Scott introduced us to the Deacon Family Ministry Plan, and led us (to move) toward new roles as deacons.

**(Flat River Associational Work.)**

I also served in the Flat River Association as Assistant Director and later Director of Woman's Missionary Union of the Association . First Baptist has been a strong supporter of the Association and its work and furnished the Association many good leaders.

**(Gratitude for opportunities to serve.)**

I am grateful to God and to the people of First Baptist Church for allowing me and my family to experience the blessings of fellowship and of serving the Lord together in many good times. I have been twice blessed. Since Leon Perkinson and I married the close relationship with the people of Butner has continued to be sweet. Following our automobile accident our many Butner friends have demonstrated their love and concern in many ways. I think I could not have come to this day without their tremendous support.

My three daughters, Nancy Munford, Linda Wilson, Phyllis Steele and I look forward to being with you at the Fiftieth Anniversary Celebration in September.

Very Sincerely,

(Signed)

Bess Bush Perkinson

( 36-E )



**THE REVEREND DAVID PEACH became Butner's pastor in January of 1971. He remained as pastor until March of 1977.**

I wrote Reverend Peach and asked him to send me a statement regarding an event, or events, of historical significance that occurred during the tenure of his pastorate at The First Baptist Church. I thank him for the following statement.



“There are so many memories of The First Baptist Church it is difficult to choose one event in particular. I do recall the time the name was changed from Butner Baptist Church. Some great things had taken place at the church before I became pastor, but the church was in need of a new vision. As I asked the Lord for direction for the church it kept coming to me that with the great potential that was there the name should be First Baptist Church. We began to talk about it throughout the congregation. There was some resistance to the change and that was to be understood. But when the time came and the vote was taken there was no opposition.

I am convinced that the Lord was in that change and that

proved to be true. I believed that if the people would accept such a change they would be willing to make other changes and we would be able to move ahead. It was a sign to me that God was going to lead us to become much more than we had been as a church. A name change is such a small matter but a sign from God is not. From then on I knew that God was in it and that we would be successful as a church. That event meant a lot for the confidence of a young pastor.

Caroline and I are looking forward to being there in September. May God bless you in preparation for the event, and even more, may He bless your continuing efforts as a church. “

Warmest Personal Regards,

(Signed)

David Peach





**The  
Reverend  
R. Scott**

**Good** became pastor of The First Baptist Church of Butner in January, 1978. He remained as pastor until October of 1984.

I asked the Reverend Good to furnish information regarding events that took place

during his ministry at Butner that he considered of historic value and significance. I thank him for his having submitted the following letter.

April 19, 1998

Dear Mr. Smith:

First of all, it was a joy to serve The First Baptist Church of Butner as their pastor. My ministry in Butner still remains in my mind and precious memories will always stay with me. Following are some examples of a good ministry that occurred for almost seven years.

1. **Ordaining women as deacons.** This had occurred in the history of First Baptist, but many years had passed since a woman had served in this position.[Louise Thomas and Mrs. Fred Coley during Reverend Bush's pastorate.] We started the process by having Bible studies, discussion groups on the topic. Much prayer went into this, but the time came when the church body elected "Bess Bush" as a deacon or deaconess. This paved the way for other women to take and accept the challenge. Among those ordained were Jackie Register, Mary Bradsher, Oie Boyce, Nancy Rogers and Betty Aiken. This experience taught me a very valuable lesson. [I found that] each woman took this challenge and truly set the Christian example on how a deacon should labor in her church.

2. **“ We started the Deacon Family Ministry Plan”.** This [plan results in] each deacon being assigned a group of church families. Each deacon was responsible for their families by visiting them, and ministering to them.
3. **“Chrismon Program”** This program was planned for over one year in advance because each Chrismon had to be made by hand. The ladies prayer group, directed by Mrs. Edna Gillis, worked on this program for one year. A special program was held at the start of December, and the program was just beautiful.
4. **“Yokefellow Ministry”** -This ministry was started in the Federal Correctional Institution in Butner. We would hold special worship services with the prisoners in the prison on Monday evenings.
5. **“Wednesday evening meals.”** Wednesday evening was always a time for Bible study and prayer. We decided to have a meal first, and then have our Bible study. Several groups, like a Sunday School class, would take a Wednesday Evening each month and serve the meal. The tradition continues today.
6. **“Active Youth Group Ministry”**- The church realized that its future was in the youth of the church. We began by having Youth Pastors or Associate Pastors lead the way. Rev. Marty Childers and Rev. Keith Dixon played a very strong role in this successful ministry. Other groups came in for the Summer programs. The youth benefited from participation in “Youth Choirs”, and taking trips, mission and otherwise. These were very special times.
7. **“Buying a home”**,- When I became pastor I realized that I needed my own home. The Pastoriam was a very nice brick home, but it was not mine and thus I was not building equity for the future. The church body allowed me to buy a home. They rented the pastoriam out and gave me a housing allowance. This action served as an example for other ministers of the area, and for future Butner pastors.
8. **“Earned Doctorate of Ministry”.** I made the decision to start working on my doctorate and the church was supportive in my endeavor. I shall always be grateful for their understanding . Two full years after I had started the program I graduated from Drew University in Madison, NJ with my Doctorate of Ministry Degree.
9. The ministry at Butner was strong in all areas during those years. My own life was enriched and I shall always have precious memories of The First Baptist Church of Butner.

Sincerely,  
(Signed)

R. Scott Good



**THE REVEREND EMANUEL PEGRAM** began his ministry at First Baptist Church on November 11, 1985. At the time of the celebration of our fiftieth anniversary he will have been pastor nearly thirteen years.

When Emanuel and Peggy came to Butner their twin daughters were freshmen at Meredith College in Raleigh. The twins graduated in May 1989, and both have since married.

Sherri married David Robie and they now have two children, Ashley Lauren and David II. Terri was married to Michael Ellis Jr. in August of 1996. They now live in Richmond, Virginia.



Emanuel is the son of the Reverend and Mrs. M. A. Pegram who served the Lord and North Carolina Baptists more than fifty years. Emanuel has thus lived in a pastoriom all of his life.

After graduating from West Edgecomb High School in Rocky Mount, Emanuel did his early under graduate work at Campbell College and received his B. A. degree from Wake Forest University. He received his Master of Divinity degree from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary at Wake Forest.

While serving his first pastorate at Inez in Warren County he met the woman who was to become his wife in a few years. While serving the Blandwood Baptist Church in

Rocky Mount he and Peggy, who is a graduate of Chowan College, were married.

The dates ,and even the times, of great events in a minister's life are remembered and related to the church he was serving at the time of the event. Emanuel and Peggy were serving the Woodland Baptist Church at Woodland, North Carolina when their twins were born. The Pegrams have served the Lindley Park Baptist Church at Greensboro, the Lillington Baptist Church at Lillington and the Dortches Baptist Church in Rocky Mount prior to coming to Butner in 1985. When we consider his student and interim services, Emanuel has served our Lord over forty years, thirty-six of which he has served as a pastor.

## **Dr. Alan Neely served as interim pastor about a year prior to the arrival of Reverend Pegram.**

He served from the end of October, 1984 until November 1, 1985.

While others whom I have mentioned have served as interim, none served as long as did Dr. Neely. Additionally, Dr. Neely has filled the pulpit as a supply on numerous occasions.

This being true, I asked Dr. Neely for a bit of information that might be of historic significance. I liked his response.

April 18, 1998

Dear Eddie;

I don't think I can be of great help to you, but one incident stands out in my memory-an incident that occurred while I was there. I was preaching a sermon entitled, "Pastor: A Job Description" or "What Kind of Pastor Do You Want?"

My text was Ephesians 4: 1-16, and I think I referred also to First Timothy 1: 1-7.

My opening statement was, "Suppose we were to open the service today to congregational participation and attempt to write collectively a job description for the kind of pastor you want, the ideal pastor let us say. What would you include? How would you prioritize the responsibilities?"



I talked about qualifications, gifts or abilities, and developed skills.

There was no way to know whether many in the congregation that morning took seriously the challenge, but two adolescent girls did - Heather Brooks and Stacey McSwain. I think they were ten or eleven years old at the time. At the end of the service they handed me their list of qualifications- a list I still have- and a list I have used several times since in installation and ordination services. Heather and Stacy had seventeen qualifications. They were:

1. Serious
2. Age 32



3. Married
4. Experienced
5. Grooming ( They gave no details )
6. Middle-Size, ( I suppose they meant not too fat , not too lean.)
7. The gift of love.
8. Loud Voice
9. Caring
10. A good record
11. Honest
12. Nice
13. Be able to preach
14. Non-alcoholic. ( I suspect they picked this up from the text in I Timothy)
15. A Big heart
16. Preach so that children and adults can understand.
17. Funny

I've heard lots of sermons on what a pastor should be, etc., but I think this list will stand up to the most rigorous inspection. This is to say that any pastor who manifests these qualifications will not only be successful, he or she will be loved, respected and followed.

Best wishes as you write the history.

Sincerely,

(signed)  
Alan Neely

As long as Dr. Neely keeps on telling this story, and, as long as persons read the story in the history of this church, Heather and Stacy's insight and shared ideas will be a blessing to the lives of persons. "Amen! Amen!"

## OTHERS WHO HAVE SERVED AS INTERIM PASTOR

**Dr. James Shurling :** Served a short time after Reverend Peach resigned. He died.

**Dr. John Freeman:** Professor of Psychology at Campbell University. He served from June 26, 1977 until January 1, 1978. Dr. Freeman was loved and admired by all who knew him. His early death at the age of 63 was a shock to the many Baptists who knew him through his interim pastoral work around Durham.

**Reverend Henry B. Anderson:** Retired pastor of Grace Baptist Church in Durham . He participated in the dedication of the new sanctuary.

**Dr. Alan Neeley :**Has been mentioned. He was a professor at Southeastern Theological Seminary at Wake Forest.



There were others who served as interim pastor, or simply preached during the absence of a pastor at Butner. Many Laymen filled the pulpit when the church had no pastor. It was interesting to note the amounts that these laymen were paid for speaking at the church. Leon Perkinson spoke one Sunday and was paid \$5.00 for doing so. Others received the same amount.

**THE FOLLOWING ORDAINED MINISTERS HAVE BEEN  
MEMBERS OF FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH DURING THE PAST  
FIFTY YEARS.**

W. F. Askins	Roy Barham	Talmadge Fowler
Eugene Amick	John Biggers	Joseph Godby
Fred T. Badders	J. V. Buchanan	Cecil Green
Jerry Bailey	Ronald Clapp	James McSwain
Ray Morgan	James Shelly	Luther Walker
Fenton Moorehead	Eddie L. Smith	Billy Washburn
James Rock	Milton Snyder	Harry Conte
Dr. Earl H. Parker		

## **.CHAPTER FOUR**

### **THE PLANNING FOR AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF SPACE FOR EDUCATION AND WORSHIP**

#### **BUTNER BAPTIST SANCTUARY CONTRIBUTES TO THE WORSHIP EXPERIENCE**

On March 6, 1973, Edward Willis, Leon Perkinson and Melvin Lester signed a DEED OF TRUST NOTE in the amount of \$225,000.00 . These men signed this huge note as Trustees of The Butner Baptist Church. This was probably the largest note that either of these men had ever signed as individuals, and each of them probably had a case of the jitters after he had signed his name and backed off and observed the amount of the note.

If they experienced any fear at the time they realize now that there was no basis in reality for the fear.



On June 25, 1993, this DEED OF TRUST NOTE was marked, "Paid in Full", and a large stamp with that all important word for such things, CANCELLED stamped on the face of the Note. Under this word CANCELLED the signature of the proper Bank official was placed. The debt had been made, the sanctuary and center section of the office and educational building had been constructed and utilized for twenty years and now, the \$225,000.00 was paid.

Edward Willis, Melvin Lester and Leon Perkinson joined the congregation of what had now become The First Baptist Church of Butner, N. C. in saying, AMEN! AMEN! AMEN!

The construction of this sanctuary and center section for offices and educational space in 1972-73, and certainly paying off of the note in 1993, was the culmination of many plans and dreams, much hard work and prayer on the part of many people, and many demonstrations of faith over a period of about 38 years.

In order to adequately appreciate the end result we must travel back in time and events and observe the long, and sometimes rough path, that had been followed with so much faith by so many members and leaders of The Butner Baptist Church (Which had now become The First Baptist Church of Butner) over this thirty eight year time-frame.

## **THE 1973 COMPLETION OF THE SANCTUARY MARKED THE CONCLUSION OF A LONG-RANGE BUILDING PROGRAM.**

The Reverend Warren Thomas Bush became pastor of The Butner Baptist Church on October 14, 1956. On December 2, 1956, W. E. Rich made a motion, and Dr. Marshburn seconded the motion, that a Survey Committee be appointed and that this Committee do a survey and determine the "number of Baptist in our community and the needs of our church in light of this number of Baptists". M. O. Lester, L. B. Perkinson, Carl L. Lane, J. H. Eason, J. S. Daniels, R. E. Jones and W. D. Jones were appointed to this Survey Committee.

### **WHAT A GIANT OAK !FROM SO SMALL AN ACORN !**

On February 24, 1957, the above referenced Survey Committee made the following recommendation to the church in conference: "In light of our present and future needs of our church we recommend that we plan to construct an educational unit and Sanctuary to accommodate at least 575 people. The Committee further recommends that we construct the educational unit first- according to the financial ability of our church. Furthermore, the following recommendations are made: (1) Secure title to the land, (2) That Pastor Bush appoint and the church elect a Development Committee composed of nine people". This was placed in the form of a motion by Mr. Perkinson and seconded by Mr. Rich, and was unanimously approved by the church.

On September 19, 1958, Mr. J. H. Eason, Chairman of the Development Committee gave a report to the church. The Development Committee recommended that "Unit I of our new church be started, hopefully, by next Summer."

On May 17, 1959, a Business meeting was called by Mr. J. H. Eason, Chairman of the Development Committee. He stated that the church had already approved Plan C-575, that is the construction of Unit I of the Educational Building, and that he wanted the permission of the church to pour the foundation for the floor of this building. L. B. Perkinson made a motion to appoint a committee to secure pledges for this fund. M. O. Lester seconded and stated that a committee of twelve be appointed. He further stated that this pledge would be over and above our regular contributions. "Quite a discussion was made as to whether we would cut on our plans and change the blueprint. After much discussion, Mr. W. T. Breedlove made motion we accept plan C-575 as previously adopted by the church. No Change! Mr. Sydney Gupton seconded the motion and it was adopted unanimously. Motion then made by L. B. Perkinson that we borrow money as, and if we needed it. This seconded by M. O Lester. Approved.



Motion was also made that the Development Committee be given the power to pass on minor details without bringing it before the church each time. Also the Committee was authorized to make slight changes in location of building to accommodate the blueprint without coming back before the church."

Two members of the Development Committee had resigned. They were replaced by Robert R. Thomas and W. T. Breedlove.



**BACK ROW:** L to Right- M. O. Lester, W. T. Breedlove, Ruby Whiten, Sidney Gupton.

**FRONT ROW:** L/R , Bob Jones, Mrs. Askins, Willie Jones

## UNIT ONE OF PLAN WAS COMPLETED IN 1960

Unit I was the Children's Building. It is the building where the Nursery, Men's Bible Class, Sunday School Office, Mrs. Molly Gupton's Class, the Singles Group, the Men's Bible Class, and the Married couples class now meet.



In a conference in 1960, the church expressed appreciation to all who had worked on this unit and had helped complete it. Especially did they thank Dick Holt for his assistance.

The photographer who took this picture was standing with his/her back to "D" Street. Observe the white doors that now open into the Sunday School Secretary's office, the Men's Bible Class room and the church nursery/



## **THE PASTORIAM WAS NEXT COMPLETED IN 1965**



### **First Pastorium.**

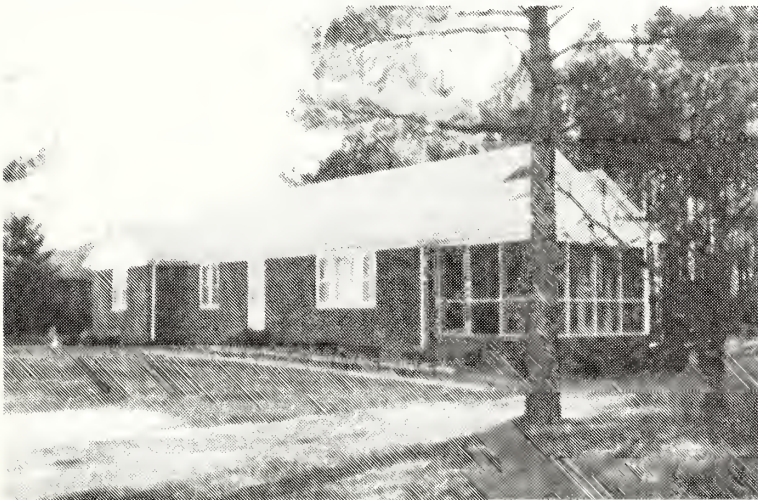
The Meltons, Helms, Lesters and Bush's lived in this old converted barracks building. It served as the pastorium from 1949 until 1965 when the new pastorium was completed and the Bushs moved in. ( Bess Bush Perkinson

says that this was their VW-Bug)

This building was purchased from the church by Brother M. O. Lester and he moved it to 9<sup>th</sup>. Street where it still stands and is now, 1998, occupied by the Royal family.

### **“PASTORIAM” IS WHAT WE CALL IT !**

Our friends in the Presbyterian Church call their pastor's home the "Mance." Our Methodist friends call their minister's home the "Parsonage." The correct term in Baptist Churches for the pastor's home, (When it is owned by the church) is the Pastorium. Whoa, throughout the years Butner Baptist ,incorrectly, called the pastor's home the "parsonage", and, early on Butner Baptists referred to the deacons meeting as the meeting of the "Official Board". Folks, Baptists don't have parsonages and Official Boards. We can't steal those terms from the Methodists!



This new pastorium is located almost directly across "D" Street from where the old pastorium stood for several years.

In 1965, the Reverend and Mrs. Bush and their children moved into the newly completed "pastorium" that is located across D Street from the Church.

During the 1950's the church bought the home where A. C. Harrison now lives. It is next door to the church. It was built by a Clyde Campbell and was used by the Presbyterian pastor for a period of time.

I did not discover exactly when the church bought this home nor how much the church paid for it. Brother M. O. Lester thinks it was bought for a Music Director to live in. Minutes do indicate that the church realized an equity of \$5,469.40 at the time this house was sold and that members of the church were given first opportunity to purchase the house. (The church rented the house out for a few years and found this to be an unsatisfactory procedure- according to the minutes. )

Brother A. C. Harrison bought this house from the church.

## **SECOND EDUCATIONAL BUILDING COMPLETED IN 1967**

When Unit II of the Educational Building was completed in 1967, the church had the Youth Department. This building consisted of what is now the kitchen, dining room and the Sunday School rooms that surround these rooms. This building also contains two rest rooms. Early on there was a partition in what is now the dining room. This has been removed so as to have more space for church dinners.



All of these things were accomplished and the church was still worshipping in the Chapel, and would continue to do so for another six years before the present sanctuary was completed and the church moved its worship services to this building.

The person who took this picture was standing on the site of the present sanctuary when they snapped the picture. This picture shows the first building the church constructed. The first

building was called, "The Children's Building", and can be seen at the top-right of the picture above. The picture also shows that the second building has now been joined on to the first. This is the building where the dining room and kitchen is now located. Note that apparently the end of the Children's building is covered with a temporary material-pending the construction of the sanctuary and the segment of the building that is immediately to the rear of the sanctuary. The builders knew that in the future the present sanctuary would be attached to this building.



## CONCLUDING OUR FLASHBACK IN TERMS OF THE BUILDINGS

Before the Educational Buildings, before the new Pastorium, and before the new Sanctuary there was the original Chapel. This was the old army Chapel number I, and this is where the church actually started back in 1948. M. O. Lester, after the state gave authorization to do so, moved an old dining hall building and attached it to the rear of the chapel so that this became limited space for the church's educational programs..

The first pews in this old chapel were made of strips of one and three fourths inches in width, with an uncomfortable space in between the strips. After sitting upon such a seat for a long sermon it is difficult to determine which provides the greater stress-the strip or the space. These pews remained the seating arrangements until October 26, 1961. In a letter addressed to Page Church Furniture Co., dated October 19, 1961, Reverend Bush informed the furniture company that the church would be ready for the delivery and installation of the new pews on October 26, 1961. These pews were installed on that and the next two days.



As the picture indicated, the Chapel was a beautiful white building with a spire and steeple. I have heard that Brother J. W. Miller possessed a bell which he placed in the steeple area for use by the church and that when the church was torn down the bell was returned to Mr. Miller. David Miller, Brother W. J. Miller's son told me recently that he has the old bell in his storage room now.

When I observed the beauty of the Chapel my first thought was, "What a pity that they didn't save the Chapel for use by the church and for historical purposes?" However, after talking with Brother M. O. Lester he who bought and dismantled the old chapel, he informed me that the old building was eaten up with termites. The church tried to sell the building, but was told that the only persons interested would charge the church for dismantling it. Mr. Lester gave the church a thousand dollars for the building and removed it from the premises.

Now that we have covered the construction of the Children's Building, the Pastorium, and the Youth Building with the Kitchen/Dining Room areas, let us commence the further discussion of the fulfillment of that Long Range Plan that was adopted by the church back in 1956.

It became time for the beginning of the construction of the largest element of the Long Range Plan- the Sanctuary. You will remember that those who did the survey back in 1956 stated that a sanctuary would be needed that would seat 525 persons. With that plan as the foundation for the future, Norman Streib was selected to chair the Building Committee for the sanctuary, and, after groundbreaking, construction was begun.

## **GROUNDBREAKING FOR NEW SANCTUARY IS HELD!**

On September 24, 1972, Homecoming Day Services were held at The Butner Baptist Church. As a part of these Homecoming Day Ceremonies, Groundbreaking for the new sanctuary was held. The following quote is lifted from the Minutes of the Church Conference related to that occasion: 'Following this fellowship, (Dinner-on-the grounds) Groundbreaking ceremonies were held to mark the beginning ,at last, of our new church building which has been in our hearts and prayers for many years. Mr. Warren Bush, former pastor, serving us faithfully for 13 ½ years, gave a short inspirational message along with a brief history of the church. Mr Norman Streib, Chairman of the Planning and Development Committee, also gave a brief talk and the Committee was recognized and thanked for their hard and faithful work.

"Special guests included the architects and the builders, with their wives. These people, along with our pastor (Reverend Peach) turned over the few spades of dirt, thus beginning a new venture of faith by The Butner Baptist Church.'

**The Architects were: Smart, Woodall, Isley and Herring, Inc.**

**The Builders were: Trout and Riggs Construction Co.**



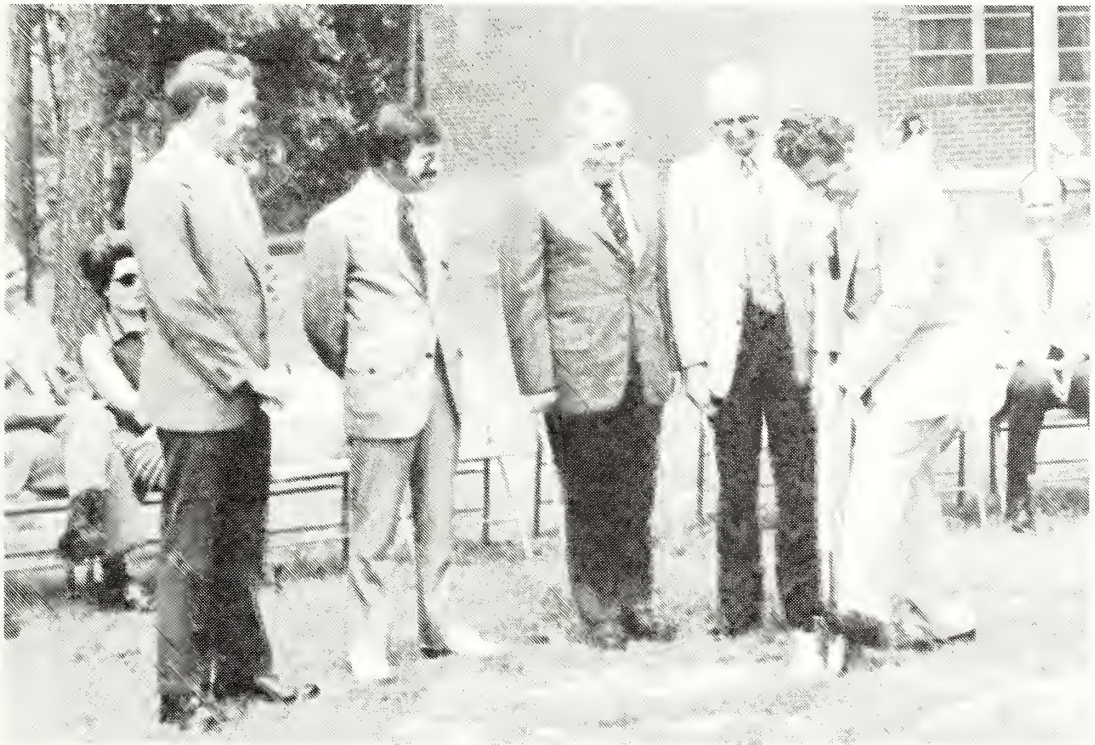
As is true on all great and worthwhile occasions, Baptists believe in eating when they fellowship with one another. This occasion combined "Homecoming and Groundbreaking", on September 24, 1972, twenty-four years and five days after the church was organized.



## CONSTRUCTION OF SANCTUARY IS BEGUN!

As is almost always the case, the Preacher has to show the way when it comes to work and the church membership really getting involved. Below, Pastor David Peach has put his hand to the spade to turn the first dirt for the construction of the new sanctuary. Looking on as the preacher works is Bill Tunstall, Joe Doby, former pastor Warren Bush and Building Committee Chairman Norman Streib.

Seen in the background, at left, are Mr. & Mrs. George Smart,(Architects) and at extreme right is Bryant Minor.





Groundbreaking Ceremonies for construction of the new, present, sanctuary were held on September 24, 1972. Pictured below, from L/R are: Pat and Edward Willis, Mr. Herring, George Smart, George Trout, Jean Trout, Rev. Warren Bush, Norman Streib, (Chairman of the Building Committee,) Bill Tunstall, Jackie Register, Bryant Minor, David Gupton, and Lester Montague. Rev. David Peach is speaking.



All those who have ever participated in the construction of a church building program will know that there are constant challenges to be faced and problems to be overcome before the project is completed. The Building Committee of the First Baptist Church faced and overcame problems.

## **LEAVING THE OLD TO ENTER THE NEW**

The actual construction of the new sanctuary was accomplished during the Fall and Winter of 1972-73, and the Spring and Summer of 1973, for, on July 29, 1973, Rev. David Peach and Norman Streib led the congregation from Old Chapel No. I to the beautiful, new sanctuary that is seen and described below.

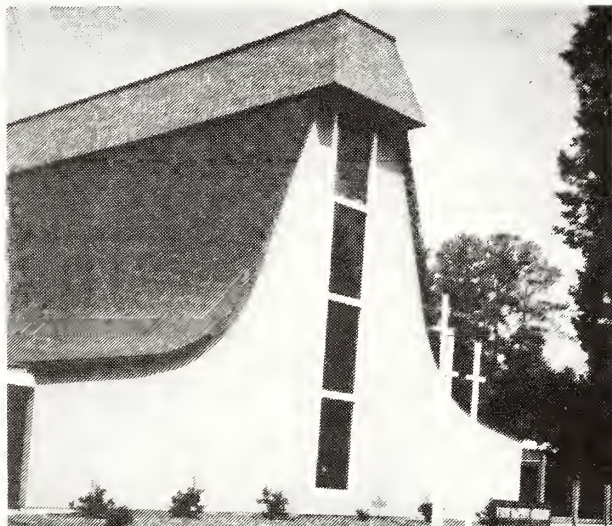


Led by Reverend David Peach and Building Committee Chairman Norman Streib, the congregation is leaving the Old Chapel Number I on July 29, 1973, in order that they may dedicate the new sanctuary to the Glory of God and the service of humanity.



## ARCHITECTURE OF SANCTUARY CONTRIBUTES TO ITS IDENTITY AND TO THE ATMOSPHERE OF WORSHIP!

The above statement is true whether one is observing from the exterior or interior. The



observer, standing on D Street, first observes the windows that grace the center of the exterior. The contrast created by the straight lines of the window and the surrounding curves is pleasing to the eye. The contrast created by the light masonry shade and the dark shadow of the clear windows commands attention. The height of the windows, capped off by the bonnet atop the gracefully curving roof that ascends from an almost flat

surface on either side, then hurries to the peak, over which the bonnet suggests cover and closure, shouts to the world, "I, am a CHURCH".

The features described above for the exterior are seen, in reverse order, immediately upon entering through the double doors located on either side of the "street front" of the sanctuary. The sanctuary, which seats approximately five hundred and twenty-five persons when the choir is included, experienced from the interior, soothingly calls those seated for worship to the recognition that, "Surely God is in this place" !



The very height of the nave and the graceful manner in which the eyes are led to observe it by the ascending exposed beams, suggests that persons are to, "Lift up my eyes unto the hills from whence cometh my help." In this atmosphere the significance of man is diminished and, "the holiness of God is enhanced."

The architecture of the First Baptist Church assists the person who has a desire to worship. This beauty will enable the person to achieve their goal.



# **THEY ENTERED THE NEW SANCTUARY AND DEDICATED IT TO THE GLORY OF GOD!**

## **A Copy of the Dedication Program**

July 29, 1973

11:00 A. M.

Prelude-	"The Church's One Foundation"	Wesley
*Hymn of Praise- No. 379	"O Thou Whose Hand Hath Brought Us"	Webb
Invocation		Rev. David G. Peach
Message in Song- "Bless This House"		Brahe
	Mrs. Caroline H. Peach, Soloist	
Welcome and Announcements		
***		
Recognition of Guests		
Recognition of Memorials		
Prayer of Dedication		Rev. Henry B. Anderson
Choral Response		Sanctuary Choir
*Hymn of Dedication-No. 403, "All Things Are Thine"		Gardinar
Offertory Prayer		
Offertory - "A Mighty Fortress is Our God"		Luther
Anthem - "We Have Heard the Joyful Sound"		Starks
Message		Dr. J. Winston Pearce
Benediction		Mr. Vernon Morton, Jr.
Postlude	"God of Our Fathers"	Warren
***	Worshipers will enter and be seated	
•	Congregation will stand	

(Second Page)

Program Personalities

Rev. Henry B. Anderson- Pastor Emeritus, Grace Baptist Church, Durham N. C.

Dr. J. Winston Pearce, Writer in Residence- Campbell College, Buies Creek, N. C.

Mr. Vernon Morton, Jr. Chairman of the Deacons, First Baptist Church, Butner, N.C.

Mrs. Carolyn H. Peach, Soloist, First Baptist Church, Butner, N.C.

(Continued from previous page)

Rev. David Peach, Pastor First Baptist Church, Butner, N. C.

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Norman Streib, Chairman

Mr. Dennis Dean

Mr. Richard Garrett

Mr. David Gupton

Mrs. Melvin Lester

Mr. Bryant Minor

Mr. Lester Montague

Mr. Vernon Morton, Jr.

Mrs. George Register

Mr. William Tunstall

Mr. Edward Willis

Mrs. Edward Willis

MEMORIAL GIFTS

Mr. & Mrs. Washington C. Abbott

Rev. Warren T. Bush

Mr. Vance High

Mr. Clarence T. Hite

Dr. James A. Marshburn, Sr.

Mr. Clarence Miles

Master Wade C. Rogers

Architects: Smart, Woodall, Isley & Herring, Inc.

Contractor: Trout and Riggs Construction Company

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# **NOTE FOR BUILDING LOAN BURNED JUNE 13. 1993**

The membership and friends of The First Baptist Church received the following letter the week prior to June 13, 1993:

“The membership of The First Baptist Church of Butner, North Carolina is happy to announce that the original note on the sanctuary building has been retired. To celebrate and acknowledge our God’s grace for providing us with the resources to build this building and pay for it, we set aside Sunday, June 13, 1993, for a special service of worship at which the note for the building will be burned.

We invite every member to to this special service. We also invite every former member to join us in this celebration to our God. If you served on the Building Committee, we need you to be present . Any former pastors are also invited to come and share this exciting time with us.

The service will be at 11:00 on the morning of June 13, 1993. Our God has blessed us in an abundant way and we intend to give Him the Praise.”

Join us!

Sincerely,  
Emanuel P. Pegram, Pastor



# **SANCTUARY REDEDICATED AFTER RENOVATION**

**August 17, 1997**

**This section concludes the discussion of the Buildings of The First Baptist Church.**

In early, 1997, the church decided to place new carpet in the sanctuary and to re-upholster the the pews. This had been completed and a re-dedication service was held on August 17, 1997.

The total costs of this renovation was \$19,608.88. These funds came from two sources primarily: Memorial Gifts and Insurance claims that resulted from the, storm damage that occurred during the time that a new roof was being placed on the sanctuary. (This storm damage occurred on July 17, 1994.) The balance of these costs came from undesignated church funds.

## **THE REDICATION SERVICE PROGRAM**

A Part of the Responsive Reading: "We gather here today to rededicate this sanctuary and its congregation to the purpose of spreading the Word of God. Our family is almost forty-nine years old. In these years we have seen changes and watched our God use us for His cause. Today we have a larger vision than those who first chartered these waters. In order to permit this larger vision to become reality, we rededicate ourselves to the work of God and remember that his congregation, with the church building, stands as a beacon of light in a community and world in need of knowing God's love. This church is of God, and will be preserved to the end of time as a fellowship of believers who gather for worship, the proclamation of His Word, the maintenance of Christian fellowship, discipleship, and the growth of Believers. Let us give thanks to God for His mercies bestowed upon this church building and congregation, and for His mercies for the future."

## **MEMORIALS IN THE PEW RE-UPHOLSTERING AND OTHER MATTERS WERE:**

Mr. & Mrs. Garland Daniel by Joe and Lydia Mae Bryant

Mr. David Patterson by Bobby and Rachel Stone, Ricky & Glenda Stephenson, Pearl Patterson and the David Patterson Memorial.

Mr. & Mrs. R. L. Cone and Mr. & Mrs. S. J. Spencer, Sr. , By Herb and Nona Spencer

Carl Barbour by Danny and Joy Barbour

Joshua McSwain by Jim, Peggy and Stacey McSwain

Lawrence Ray Aiken and James E Powell, Sr. By Betty Aiken and Sally Powell

Their Parents by Alva and Adele Wheless

John Lewis by Eloise Lewis and Daughters

Winfield O. Lyon by Janie Lyon

Walter Ihlenburg by Esther Ihlenburg

Alma M. Minor by Bryant Minor and Virginia Minor

James W. Satterwhite and Ernest M. Alligood by Ronald and Linda Alligood

Sam Oakley and Willis and Sarah Abbott by Shirley Oakley and Jake Abbott

Vance High by Louise Honeycutt, Doug, Danny, Deborah and Barbara

Wade Rogers and in honor of Danny, Amanda, and Matthew Green by Robert and Nancy Rogers

John and Rose Evers by Johnnie, Deborah & Alisha Evers & Billy Cone Family

Son and Parents by Chris Emory

Maude Dickerson and Robert Thomas by Clara Swain and E. R. Kirby

Carl Barbour by Lois Barbour

Husband and Father by Oie Boyce

**PEW RE-UPHOLSTERING GIVEN IN HONOR OF:**

Joe, III, Suzanne and John by Joe and Lydia Mae Bryant

Grandchildren by Joe and Lydia Mae Bryant

Joe and Lydia Mae Bryant by Joe III, Susanne, John and Grandchildren

Troy and Cathy by William and Wilma Tunstall

Their son Wayne and his family, by W. T. and Foy Breedlove

Their Mother, Patricia Elliott by Deborah Willete and Donna Wheeler

**PEW REUPHOLSTERING GIVEN BY:**

Ron, Pam, Kristi and Scott Daniel's

William, Betty , Marcus and Kim Austin

**George and Jackie Register**

**Pete and Pat Willis**

**Donald and LaRue Daniel and Family**

**Richard D. and Myrtle Holt**

**William and Hazel Andrews**

**Lester and Mozelle Montague**

**Joe and Nancy Horton**

**Claxton and Edna Yates**

#### **OTHER MEMORIALS**

**Acknowledging the First Sign for the First Baptist Church, Butner was in memory of Homer J. Isom, Sr. Given by his wife Hazel Isom.**

**Vestibule Literature tables in Memory of Kathy Boone**

**The Natural Area surrounding the Crosses in memory of J. V. Buchanan  
The Crosses in Natural Area in Memory of Walter Ihlenburg**

**Side walk in Memory of Marion Adams, Susan Cheek, Onnie Green, Alma Minor and W. A. Gilliam**

**Computer Printer in Memory of Carolyn Perkinson**

**Christmas Tree in Memory of Edna Gillis**

**Paint in Memory of Neil Crews**

**Pew Renovation in Memory of Mildred Brown, Perry Enloe, Maude Glover, Flora Medlin, Reba Richards, Troy Shearin, Louise Elliott and Virginia Gupton**

**Doorbells in Memory of Thomas Currin, Sally Eason, Virginia Gupton, Pat Boyce and Frank Turner**

**Office Sofa & Chair in Memory of Ruth Smith and Willie Lee Bowden**

**Pictures for Office Area in Memory of Willie Lee Bowden, Maggie Padgett, Troy Patterson, Johnny Evers, Virginia Wafford, Mamie Pegram and Jeanne Bowles**



**Nursery Toys in Memory of Cheryl Costigan**

**Sanctuary Palm Trees in Memory of Jean Wilkins**

**Wallpaper Office Area in Memory of Edna Saunders**

**Desk and Chair in Memory of David Patterson**

**Columns-Fellowship Hall in Memory of M. A. Pegram**

**Mirror and Table in Memory of Kathy Boone**

**Office Curtains in Memory of Reatha Cox**

**Plaques for Covering Pews in Memory of W. A. Gilliam**

**Thus the church was renovated at a cost of \$19, 608.88 plus the cost of individual memorials.**

**This concludes the Historical discussion of the Buildings which serve the First Baptist Church of Butner.**

## CHAPTER FIVE

### THE DEACONS OVER THE YEARS

The goal of this writer has been, and will continue to be, to include the name of every individual member and officer of the Butner Baptist Church and The First Baptist Church of Butner in this history. Shirley Gupton and others have been of assistance to me in achieving this goal. However, since we Baptists do business as we do in a local church, and since the records are very incomplete, I will not guarantee that every person whose name should be included -is included.



(Deacon of Deacons appears to be driving under the influence of Granddaughter, Cecily and wife Lottie Mae)

Be assured that if your name is not included in this list of deacons the exclusion is the result of the absence of information. Every available record has been searched, and when this chapter is concluded a copy of the chapter will be made available to the Church Secretary and the Pastor so that they may check to see if they can think of anyone whose name is not included.

Evidently there were two or three men who had been ordained in another church prior to the organization of the Butner Church. While there is no written evidence of this. It does appear that W. E. Bullock and Joe Eason were ordained deacons at the time the church was organized. There could have been others, but we have no indication that this was the case.

That year, 1948, gives no indication that a Board of Deacons existed. The first evidence that we have that a group of deacons who had been duly elected and/or ordained is 1950. I will therefore start with 1950, and list, by year, the names of those who have been listed as deacons up through 1997.

**1950**

J . H . Eason  
L. B. Perkinson  
John Daniel  
Daniel Gray  
Sidney Clayton  
Fred Coley

**1951**

J. H. Eason  
W. E. Bullock  
John Daniel  
Fred Coley  
Dan Gray  
L. B. Perkinson

**1955**

Warren Blinson  
(Went Off)  
Norman Kelly  
A. C. Harrison

**1957**

Carl Lane  
W. F. Askins  
Sidney Gupton  
A. C. Harrison  
Milton Snyder  
Dr. James Marshburn

**1958**

L. B. Perkinson  
Lester Montague  
Luther Williams

**1959**

Melvin Lester, Ch.  
Robert Thomas  
Watt Helms  
Talmadge Farmer  
C. Lane Moved  
A. C. Harrison took  
Mr. Lane's place

**1969**

Boyd Gillis, Ch.

**1971**

Joe Doby, Ch.

Records indicate that Richard, (Dick) Holt was a deacon in 1963)

**1974**

Vernon Morton, Ch.

**1975**

Ray Morgan, Ch.

**1976**

Jimmy Baker  
Joe Bryant III  
David Gupton  
Ray Harris  
Vernon Morton  
Leon Perkinson  
David Rooks



## Deacons of First Baptist Church Date Not Known



From Left to Right: Vernon Morton, Elbert (Spooky) Oakley, Ray Harris, Lester Montague, Boyd Gillis, Bryant Minor, Joey Bryant, Ray Morgan, Edward (Pete) Willis and Tommy Whitfield.

### 1977

Lester Montague  
Ray Morgan  
Elbert Oakley  
Leonard Rogers  
Tommy Whitfield

### 1978

Bess Bush  
Melvin Lester  
Jim McSwain  
William Tunstall  
Edward Willis

### 1979

Jamie Marshburn  
Charles Mills  
Mary Bradsher  
Ron Daniel's  
Donald James  
Jackie Register  
Bill Tunstall resigned  
in June.

### 1980

David Rooks  
Vernon Morton  
Betty Aiken  
Leon Perkinson  
Bess Bush  
Gary McDonald

### 1981

Boyd Gillis  
Joe Horton  
Dennis Lester  
Nancy Rogers  
John Daniel  
Jim Brand

### 1982

Oie Boyce(Ordained)  
Lenny Rogers  
David Gupton  
Nancy Rogers  
Betty Aiken  
Mike Ellis resigned  
Tommy Whitfield took place.

**1983**

Jim McSwain  
 Jerry Bailey  
 Lenny Rogers  
 Bess Bush  
 Ron Daniel's  
 Jamie Marshburn  
 Charlie Mills  
 Ray Morgan  
 Michael Wang

**1984**

Kim Boulinbough  
 & Jim Brooks were  
 ordained 11/25/84  
 Pete Willis  
 Jim McSwain  
 Oie Boyce  
 Mary Bradsher  
 Boyd Gillis  
 Lester Montague  
 Steve Kaylor

**1985**

Jim Brand resigned  
  
 Mark Blotzer  
 Steve Kaylor  
 John Carroll  
 Donald James  
 Tim Wilkinson  
 Boyd Gillis

**1986**

Oie Boyce  
 David Rooks  
 Bill Tunstall  
 Tommy Whitfield  
 Jackie Register  
 Rick Foster

**1987**

Rick Foster  
 Evelyn Marshburn  
 Dennis Lester  
 Lenny Rogers  
 Donald Wilkins  
 Jim McSwain

**1988**

Vernon Morton  
 Leon Perkinson  
 Betty Aiken  
 Ron Daniels  
 Elvin Duke

**1989**

Donald James  
 Oie Boyce  
 John Carroll  
 Jim Brand  
 Mark Blotzer  
 David Rooks  
 Jackie Register

**1990**

Mike Bell  
 Rick Foster  
 Eddie Smith  
 Evelyn Whitfield  
 Jackie Register  
 Bobby Stone  
 E. Smith resigned in  
 February, 1991

**1991**

A. C. Harrison  
 Jim McSwain  
 William Tunstall  
 Pete Willis  
 David Rooks  
 Roy Patterson  
 Lester Montague

**1992**

Bobby Pearce  
 Grady Elliott  
 Vernon Morton  
 Ron Daniel's  
 Jim Brooks  
 Elvin Duke  
 Jim Brand resigned

**1993**

Oie Boyce  
 Betty Aiken  
 David Strickland  
 Bobby Stone  
 R. D. Holt  
 Ron Alligood  
 Elvin Duke  
 G.Elliott resigned  
 in May, 1993

**1994**

Rick Foster  
 Dennis Lester  
 Lester Montague  
 Jackie Register  
 Nancy Rogers  
 Bobby Pearce  
 Ron Daniels  
 Elvin Duke

**1995**

Joe Bryant  
Sue Morton  
Lenny Rogers  
Walter Ihlenburg  
David Rooks  
Bobby Pearce  
Betty Aiken

**1996**

Ronald Alligood  
Dannie Barbour  
Ron Daniel's  
Jim McSwain  
William Tunstall  
Bill Andrews

**1997**

Oie Boyce  
A. C. Harrison  
Herb Spences  
David Strickland  
Pete Willis  
Joe Bryant  
Alva Wheless



# PRESENT DEACONS ORGANIZATION

1998

The Church Directory for 1997-98 lists the following persons as active deacons, (With the year each deacon's term expires.) This Directory also list the present resident members of the church who are ordained deacons, but are not presently active. The Directory states, "This list is probably not complete."

## 1997-98 Organization:

**Chairman**

**Vice Chairman**

**Secretary**

**Deacon Family Ministry Coordinator**

**Jim McSwain**

**Lenny Rogers**

**Ronald Daniels**

**Oie Boyce**



### Terms Expiring

#### 1998

Joe Bryant  
Esther Ihlenburg  
Lenny Rogers  
David Rooks  
Alva Wheless

\* \*

#### 1999

Bill Andrews  
Dannie Barbour  
Ron Daniels  
Jim McSwain  
William (Bill) Tunstall  
( 67 )

#### 2000

Oie Boyce  
A. C. Harrison \*  
Herbert Spencer  
David Strickland  
Edward Willis

## **Ordained But Inactive Deacons**

This list also has a disclaimer. "This list is probably correct". It is well that this disclaimer is inserted, for I strongly suspect that we will have left someone off the list.

Betty Aiken  
Ronald Alligood  
W. T. Breedlove  
Jim Brand  
Elvin Duke  
Grady Elliott  
Mike Ellis  
Rick Foster  
Richard Holt  
Daniel Gray

Joe Horton  
Donald James  
Dennis Lester  
Melvin Lester  
Evelyn Marshburn  
Bryant Minor  
Lester Montague  
Elbert Oakley  
Roy Patterson

Jackie Register  
Nancy Rogers  
Robert Rogers  
Eddie Smith  
Bobby Stone  
Mary Strickland  
Garland Walker  
Alva Wheless\*  
Donald Wilkins

- He has been added to active board.

\* \* These have moved away or become incapacitated

## **The Deacon Family Ministry**

The Deacon Family Ministry was established during the pastorate of Reverend Scott Good. An additional set of guidelines was adopted by the deacons on December 1, 1986.

The 1997-98 Church Directory has an article entitled, "What is expected of a Deacon Ministry" I give this statement in its entirety below.

This ministry is not intended to take the place of the pastoral ministry. Rather, it is intended to compliment and support our pastor's ministry.

A member's deacon is to be someone we can know and call on when we have a need. That person, (Our deacon) is a caring person other than our pastor,(sic)

The deacon shall visit all families assigned to him or her at least once a year.

The deacon should touch the assigned families:

Sickness, death and other crisis..

In times of joy; marriage, birth graduation..

Entrance to military service..

Anniversary , birthday, Christmas, etc.,

The general attitude of a deacon should be supportive of the ministries of the church and should encourage his/her families to develop the same attitude.

The deacon should give special attention to reclaim inactive families in as much as possible.

If a deacon sees a special need in an assigned family, he or she should notify the pastor and visit with the pastor if need be.

# **CHAPTER SIX**

## **FINANCES AND BUDGETS**

During the Reverend Clyde Franklyn Melton's pastorate of the Butner Baptist Church the new church was having financial problems. Brother Melton wrote the following letter to the Church Finance Committee:

### **FINANCIAL PROBLEMS FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF REVEREND CLYDE FRANKLYN MELTON**

#### **A Statement to the Finance Committee:**

Friends:

"I regret more than I can say the fact that a situation has arisen wherein several members of our church are expressing opposition to the increase in the pastor's salary. Certainly, I have been and am still embarrassed by it.

On July 24, 1951, a letter was sent to each of the 53 resident members concerning contributions I quote "This 'slump' has been particularly bad in contributions. Frankly, we are not too well fixed financially; and if we are to pay the pastor, we must step up our giving, and that right soon."

During the last assoc. year we doubled the highest previous year's record with over \$ 5502.00 given to & thru our church. Of this, \$1612.50 was paid as pastor's salary.

In December, 1949, according to the church records, the church voted to pay the newly-called pastor a salary of \$3,000 annually, with \$100 for Convention expense. Since that time the salary has not been increased even though the cost of living has continued to rise, and state workers have been raised. The Convention allotment was cut to \$50 last year at the suggestion of the pastor.

When efforts were being made to locate a pastor in a 1950 Bro. W. V. Brown of Haw River was offered a salary of \$275 or \$3300 a year, but when he refused the church & the Present pastor accepted the salary was kept at \$3000. ( This figure included about \$1,800 Ministerial Aid from North Carolina Baptists.)

I love this church - and all its members. I believe in it - its possibilities are great and its future bright. I am grateful to God that during my pastorate the membership has more than doubled, as has the income. I hope to be with you a long time to share many new victories for Christ together. I hope these facts will help clarify the matter at hand. (This statement was written by Rev. Clyde Melton )



The increase in the pastor's salary that the people were complaining about was an increase from \$35.00 a month paid Rev. E. R. Andrews to \$75.00 a month. When Brother Melton became pastor he was receiving \$100.00 a month plus the ministerial aid. His total salary, including ministerial aid was \$3,000.00 a year. As the amount of ministerial aid decreased each year the church was required to increase the salary at least as much as State Missions had decreased the aid.

Butner Baptist has complained about the salary of every pastor the church has had since its organization except Rev. E. R. Andrews, and his salary was \$35.00 per month plus the \$121.00 a month received from State Missions as ministerial aid. And, Jackie Register was right when she told me several years ago that the church "has always had financial problems."

## **SOME BUDGETS AND FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES OVER THE YEARS**

The financial transactions on the two preceding pages cover a period of time from February, 1949 until June, 1950. When we observe these figures, the amount of church income, the purposes for which funds were paid out, and the amounts received and paid out they seem so small compared to the inflationary figures of the church fifty years later. Some may be tempted to laugh at the church income and a twelve dollar phone bill. I, however, on Sunday afternoon May 24, 1998, was brought to tears as I lived with the members of this early church.

If you are serious and really observe the figures that were taken from their old check book you must be deeply moved when they send flowers to sick members, give a love offering to a former pastor and give some to other missions, even though they are financially strapped. Their balance on hand was less than \$100.00 many times, but they kept on functioning from week to week.

The different reactions of two of their early pastors is also interesting. Rev. Clyde Melton wrote a letter that expressed his embarrassment when members grumbled about his "high salary". The Reverend Hal Helms, on the other hand, revealed that he and the church had taken some positive steps to cope with the financial problems.

The letter dated April 8, 1952, deals forthrightly with the all-too-familiar attitudes and statements of church members who say, "I'll give to the church, but I don't want people to know how much I give". All those who have dealt with financial problems in a Baptist Church know that when a member makes the above statement, what they usually really mean is: "I don't want others to know how little I give".

In 1952, the Reverend Helms and the church leadership, had confronted and dealt with the attitude expressed above. They had brought the matter of financial support to the church out in the open and established responsible, wide-open membership support program for church finances.

This copy of a letter that was mailed to some member of the church says simply, "You are a member. Members have a responsibility to support their church financially. You also have a right to know what the financial status of the church is. This is the total picture.

**"All of you members contributed: \$1,371.50 during the past quarter.  
YOU contributed \$ 76.00.00 of the above amount.**

**This is great. I am proud of you and you should be proud of yourself. You are doing the Lord's will."**

When we observe the Financial Report, 1949-1997, we may easily see that the church made a large leap financially between 1951 and 1952. Their expenditures increased from \$2,720.90 in 1951 to \$7,439.36 in 1952. That is almost a \$5,000 increase in one year.

The Reverend Hal Helms brought individual membership's financial accountability out in the open and the membership responded favorably.

Therefore, as is indicated above, The Reverend Hal Helms led the Butner Baptist Church from the Middle Age view that one's financial support to his/her church was a secretive matter to the realistic view that, "if you, the membership, want a viable, full-time Christian Ministry in your community you must support this program financially, and there is nothing to be attained by your fudging in financial matters."

The growth of the church was not one-dimensional. The Church membership increased from 57 in 1951 to 171 in 1953. The Sunday School enrollment jumped from 71 in 1951 to 264 in 1953.

These comparisons are not intended to give the pastor all the credit; the membership of the church responded to the pastor's leadership.



## **THE FORWARD PROGRAM OF CHURCH FINANCE**

One of Southern Baptists greatest Convention-wide endeavors was the instigation of **The Forward Program of Church Finance**. This church is a classic example of what this program did for the local church, and for the Convention.

Reverend Hal Helms and Reverend Harold Lester laid the groundwork for Reverend Warren Bush to instigate this program at The Butner Baptist Church.

**Leon and Bess Bush Perkinson. Bess was the widow of the late Reverend Warren Bush; after Leon's wife, Carolyn, died Bess and Leon were married. Leon has meant much to the finances of the Butner Church.**



**The Forward Program of Church Finance** made church finance an open business that could and should be discussed by all classes in Sunday School, by deacons in their meetings and by the pastor from the pulpit. Ten to fifteen years prior to the beginning of this program most rural churches were part-time. That is, these churches had preaching once or twice a month-usually every other Sunday. There was not as heavy financial responsibility on the local church during those days as was true when the church began having "preaching" every Sunday and a given pastor found himself totally dependent upon one church for his livelihood. Churches then began providing pastoriums for their full-time pastors to reside in- in the church community.

With the instigation of The Cooperative Program each local church started to be more involved in world-wide missions. As young men and women committed themselves to becoming Missionaries on Home and Foreign mission fields, and more and more of these young people came out of these local churches, the churches had missions brought home to them and realized that they, the local church, had missions opportunities and responsibilities.

It was from this back-drop that a program had to be devised that would assure a consistent financial support for local responsibilities, and, for the missionaries we had sent to the foreign mission fields.

**The Forward Program of Church Finance** became the method by which Southern Baptists would establish a solid foundation for the financial support of all church activities.

This program began from the premise that every church must have a budget and that this budget must be all-inclusive. Budgets were worthless, however, if there were not constant and consistent financial support for these budgets. Members of Southern Baptist Churches began to realize that they had financial responsibilities to support the endeavors of their churches. However, in the midst of this recognition of responsibility, the all too often heard cliché, "I'll give, but I won't pledge" , became the motto of too many Southern Baptists.

**The Forward Program of Church Finance** said, yes, " we will have a budget in our church; we also will make pledges to support the budget of our churches. We will make it legitimate to talk openly about our church budgets and to talk openly about each individual church member's pledge to support the budget. "

If the church year commenced on the first of October, as was true in most instances, the Sunday School lessons for August and September dealt with finances and the local church. The pastor preached a series of sermons, prior to October first, dealing with tithing and the goals of the local church for the next church year. The budget was drawn up, discussed in every church activity, and finally approved by the church in conference. These budgets were usually approved by the church in conference with the understanding that final approval was contingent upon the membership making pledges that were adequate to underwrite the budget.



While all the above was going on in the church each church would have a representative committee whose responsibility it was to prepare for a church-wide dinner that would be without charge to all members of the church. This dinner was an extravagant affair. For instance, on Saturday evening, November 6, 1971, The Butner Baptist Church had its Forward Program Dinner. ( The church followed the calendar year, and thus the budget began January 1<sup>st</sup>. )

**The Menu consisted of:**

Choice of: **Turkey with Dressing**  
or  
**Baked Ham**

Cranberry Sauc  
String Beans  
Candied Yams  
Hot Rolls and Butter  
Coffee or Ice Tea  
Cherry Cobbler

**The Program consisted of:**

6:30	Prayer of Thanks	Pete Willis
6:32	Dinner	
7:20	Introductions	Bill Tunstall
7:25	Greetings from our Consultant	Rev. Ray Cumbee
7:35	Historical Sketch	Boyd Gillis
	Special Music	Quartet
7:45	The Canvas	Joe Bryant III
	Special Music	Quartet
8:10	Message	Rev. David Peach
8:30	Closing Prayer	J. G. Doby
	"He Lives"	Everyone

The chances are that the total budget of \$32,150.00 had been subscribed to at the conclusion of the banquet that Saturday evening, November 6, 1971. That was the regular budget. They had a goal of \$20,000 for the Building Fund.

### **SOME ANNUAL BUDGETS**

1960-61	\$20,000	
1963	\$21,925	Plus \$3,075 Building Fund
1964	\$21,000	Plus Building Fund
1965	\$21,729.63	Plus
1966	\$22,925.00	Plus
1968	\$26,000.00	Plus
1969	\$26,500.00	Plus
1970	\$26,320.00	Plus
1973	\$34,000.00	Plus \$20,000 = \$54,000
1976	\$43,171.00	
1977	\$73,227.00	

The Forward Program of Church Finance existed a number of years during the Reverend Warren Bush's pastorate and during all of Reverend David Peach's pastorate. Information is not available as to just when the church discontinued implementation of this program. There can be no doubt that this program made a tremendous contribution to the future of First Baptist Butner and to the cause of Christ throughout the Southern Baptist Convention.

The last page in this section gives the total receipts and expenditures for all the years in the fifty year period of the history of the church.

### **PASTORS SALARIES OVER THE YEARS**

Shortly after the Butner Baptist Church was organized some of its members grumbled about the salary the pastor was receiving.

Pastor Clyde Melton received a salary of \$3,000.00 per year including the Ministerial Aid. The church paid \$1,500.00 salary for him in 1952. The church budget that year was \$3,820.30. The pastor's salary was about 40 % of the total budget. Additionally, he received his home, his utilities, \$50.00 Convention Expense and \$150.00 travel.

In 1960-61, Reverend Bush received a salary of \$4,620.00 . All pastors have received the home free of charges. This was true until 1990 when the church sold the pastorium and commenced giving the pastor a housing allowance from dividends received from the



investment of funds received from the sale of the pastorium. The house being furnished will not be referred to henceforth. Reverend Bush received about 25% of the total income of the church in 1960-61. ( Mrs. Martha Morgan , seen here, was Church Secretary for several years.)

1963-----25%	1964 25%	1965 28%	1966 28%
1968 24%	1969 24%	1970 24%	1971 22 ½ %
1977 14%	1998 28%		

All of these percentages are approximate .The margin of error is about 2% in each case.



# SOME CHECKS, DEPOSITS 1949-1950

This Checkbook is the earliest financial records I could find. Please observe the amounts of the checks and the balance on hand.

DATE	CHECK WRITTEN TO	PURPOSE	AMOUNT [ OF CHECK	DEPOSITS	BALANCE
2/21/49	DURHAM BAND AND TRUST	CHECKS	\$3.53		\$186.28
2/26/49	EDWIN R, ABDREWS,PAST	Pastorial Ser.	\$35.00		\$151.28
2/28/49	BAPT. BOOK STORE	12 HYMNALS	\$12.50		\$138.78
2/28/49	OFFICE MACH. INC.	MEMO REPAIR	\$39.75		\$99.03
2/28/49	BAPT.COUNCIL OF DURHAM	STENCILS	\$2.15	\$16.17	\$113.05
3/5/49	STATE HOS.@ BUTNER	COAL	\$28.35	\$53.65	\$138.35
3/5/49	Claude Hull Florist	Flowers-Mrs.Coley	\$5.75		\$132.60
3/11/49	Rev.E.R.Andrews	Pastorial Ser.	\$35.00	\$35.67	\$133.27
3/16/49	Min. Retirement Fund	Ch.'s part of Ret.	\$10.00		\$123.27
3/26/49	Rev.E.R.Andrews	Pastorial Ser.	\$35.00		\$88.27
4/4/49	Rev.E.R.Andrews	Pastorial Ser.	\$10.00	\$10.97	\$89.24
4/25/49	Rev.E.R.Andrews	Pastorial Ser.	\$75.00	\$44.10	\$58.34
5/2/49	Schirman Music Co.	Music-Thy Wisdom	\$1.54	\$8.10	\$64.90
5/9/49	Rev.E.R.Andrews	Pastorial Ser.	\$75.00	\$109.73	\$99.63
12/23/48	Duke Rhodes Studio	Pictures	\$2.00*		\$97.63
5/20/49	Baptist Hospital	Special Donation	\$10.75	\$80.03	\$166.91
6/2/49	Bridgers Florist	Flowers-Mrs.Jacobs	\$5.00		\$161.91
6/4/49	Bapt.Sunday School Board	SS Material	\$11.21		\$150.70
6/11/49	Rev.J.L.Hart	Revival Preacher	\$50.00		\$100.70
6/11/49	Rev.E.R.Andrews	Keeping Revival Minister	\$10.00		\$90.70
6/21/49	Rev.E.R.Andrews	Pastorial Ser.	\$75.00		\$15.70
7/25/49	Rev.E.R.Andrews	Pastorial Ser.	\$75.00	\$223.16	\$163.86
8/1/49	Brewer Paint-Wallpaper	Paint for Parsonage	\$65.82		\$98.04
9/1/49	Bapt.Council of Durham	2 Pkgs. Stencil	\$4.30		\$93.74
8/2/49	Stoddart	Picnic Supplies	\$25.00	\$60.05	\$128.79
8/9/49	S.C.Burgess	Pastorial Ser.	\$10.00		\$118.79
8/17/49	Rev.E.R.Andrews	Aug.Salary	\$75.00		\$43.79
8/17/49	Claude Hull Florist	Mrs.Andrews-Flowers	\$5.00		\$38.79
9/4/49	Bapt.SS Board	SS Material	\$12.92	\$383.62	\$409.49
9/4/49	Bapt.Book Store	VBS/Choir/Treas.	\$19.35		\$390.14
9/4/49	Bapt.State Convention	Minister's Retirement	\$14.00		\$376.14
9/3/49	Brewer Paint-Wallpaper	Painting Parsonage	\$216.88		\$159.26
9/8/49	Rogers & Aiken Insurance	Insurance on Church	\$35.80		\$123.46
9/19/49	Bapt.Book Store	Supplies	\$4.12		\$119.34
9/25/49	Mr. C.A.Upchurch	Pastorial Ser.	\$15.00		\$104.34
10/2/49	Lloyd Garner	Pastorial Ser.	\$20.00		\$84.34
10/5/49	Rev.Kline Parks	Pastorial Ser.	\$5.00	\$140.58	\$219.92
10/5/49	Rev. Oren C. Bradley	Pastorial Ser.	\$30.00		\$189.92
10/5/49	Yates Bapt.Association	School of Missions	\$20.00		\$169.92
10/25/49	Rev.Kline Parks	Pastorial Ser.	\$5.00	\$113.40	\$278.32
10/25/49	Rev.Frank Marshall	Pastorial Ser.	\$5.00		\$273.32
10/30/49	Rev.Lloyd Garner	Pastorial Ser.	\$15.00		\$258.32

Sheet1

11/12/49 Butner Youth Center	Sexton Services	\$15.00		\$243.32
11/12/49 Rev.Lloyd Garner	Pastorial Ser.	\$15.00		\$228.32
11/12/49 Claude Hull Florist	Morgan Flowers	\$5.15		\$223.17
11/12/49 Bapt.Book Store	Hymnals/VBS Sup.	\$58.27		\$164.90
11/21/49 Bapt.SS Board	SS Material	\$25.25		\$139.65
11/24/49 Butner Youth Center	Sexton Services	\$9.30	\$130.39	\$260.74
11/28/49 Rev.Oren Bradley	Pastorial Ser.	\$35.00		\$225.74
12/5/49 Butner Youth Center	Sexton Services	\$15.00		\$210.74
12/12/49 Rev. Clyde Melton	Pastorial Ser.	\$25.00		\$185.74
12/12/49 Bragtown Hardware	Paint Supplies	\$1.60		\$184.14
12/12/49 Rev. Oren C. Bradley	Christmas Gift	\$50.00		\$134.14
12/17/49 Rev.Oren Bradley	Gifts for Youth Cen.	\$22.62		\$111.52
12/20/49 D.M. Gray	Exp.Pulpit Committee	\$6.00	\$105.23	\$210.75
1/12/50 Rev.Oren Bradley	Pastorial Ser.	\$35.00		\$175.75
1/17/50 Leon B. Perkinson	Pastorial Ser.	\$7.50		\$168.25
1/23/50 Rev.Oren Bradley	Pastorial Ser.	\$15.00		\$153.25
1/23/50 Vivian Evans	Pastorial Ser.	\$7.50		\$145.75
2/3/50 Allen's Hdw. Co.	Hot Water Htr.Sup.	\$24.95	\$208.93	\$329.73
2/6/50 Butner Youth Center	Sexton Services	\$30.00		\$297.73
2/6/50 J.L.Rogers & Sons	Picnic Supplies	\$15.53		\$284.20
2/6/50 Bapt.Book Store	Supplies	\$14.88		\$269.32
2/28/50 Bridgers Florist	Bullock Flowers	\$7.73	\$88.52	\$350.11
3/2/50 Rev. Clyde Melton	Pastorial Ser.	\$100.00	\$119.98	\$370.09
3/2/50 GMAC	Pyt.on Water Htr.	\$9.62		\$360.47
3/2/50 STATE HOS.@ BUTNER	Coal for Church	\$61.43		\$299.04
3/2/50 Butner Youth Center	Sexton Services	\$15.00		\$284.04
3/20/50 Brewer Paint-Wallpaper	Paint	\$171.79		\$102.25
3/20/50 Bapt SS Board	SS Material	\$19.66		\$82.59
3/28/50 T.C.Hill	Tuning Piano	\$5.00	\$165.11	\$242.70
4/1/50 Rev.Clyde Melton	Pastorial Ser.	\$150.00	\$159.77	\$252.47
4/17/50 Vernon Ricks	Moving Pastor	\$50.00		\$202.47
4/17/50 Bapt.SS Board	Bulletin Covers	\$8.25		\$194.22
4/17/50 GMAC	Pyt.on Water Htr.	\$9.62		\$184.60
5/1/50 Rev.Clyde Melton	Pastorial Ser.	\$150.00	\$51.01	\$85.61
5/4/50 Durham Telephone Co.	Phone Bill	\$8.83		\$76.78
5/19/50 GMAC	Pyt.on Water Htr.	\$9.62		\$67.16
5/30/50 Mrs.Allen James	Daniels Fun.Flowers	\$5.65		\$61.51
6/1/50 Rev.Clyde Melton	Pastorial Ser.	\$150.00	\$673.42	\$584.93
5/30/50 Bapt.Book Store	VBS Materials	\$28.45		\$556.48
5/30/50 Christian Printing Co.	Paper & Envelopes	\$9.50		\$546.98
6/1/50 Bapt.SS Board	SS Material	\$19.66		\$527.32
6/1/50 J.L.Rogers & Sons	Picnic Supplies	\$2.82		\$524.50
		\$2,624.90	\$2,981.59	

Note that the Pastor's salary started at \$35.00. I June of 1950, Rev. Clyde Melton received a salary of \$150.00.

These checks were written during the period, February, 1949, until June 1, 1950, This is a period of about 18 months Note when the checks written are subtracted from the total of the deposits the balance on hand was \$356.69.

# FINANCIAL REPORT

YEAR	TREASURER	GROSS RECEIPTS	TOTAL LOCAL EXPENSES (EXCLUDING SALARIES)	SALARIES
1949	J.H. Eason	\$ 1,355.64	\$ 645.47	\$ 514.00
1950	J.H. Eason	\$ 2,476.97	\$ 1,664.15	\$ 1,009.30
1951	Leon B.Perkinson	\$ 2,765.76	\$ 2,162.40	\$ 557.50
1952	Leon B.Perkinson		\$ 4,619.06	\$ 2,820.00
1953	Leon B.Perkinson		\$ 4,648.27	\$ 4,235.00
1954	Leon B.Perkinson		\$ 5,018.27	\$ 2,480.00
1955	Leon B.Perkinson		\$ 3,377.32	\$ 2,692.00
1956	Leon B.Perkinson	\$ 6,454.00	\$ 2,452.00	\$ 3,430.00
1957	Leon B.Perkinson	\$ 8,605.00	\$ 3,861.00	\$ 3,201.00
1958	Leon B.Perkinson	\$ 12,095.00	\$ 6,598.00	\$ 5,060.00
1959	Leon B.Perkinson	\$ 15,301.00	\$ 8,488.00	\$ 5,400.00
1960	Leon B.Perkinson	\$ 16,214.00	\$ 28,670.00	\$ 5,778.00
1961	Leon B.Perkinson	\$ 15,505.00	\$ 7,391.00	\$ 7,003.00
1962	Leon B.Perkinson	\$ 19,612.00	\$ 14,547.00	\$ 7,173.00
1963	Leon B.Perkinson	\$ 18,305.00	\$ 11,402.00	\$ 7,721.00
1964	Leon B.Perkinson	\$ 19,973.00	\$ 9,421.00	\$ 8,195.00
1965	Leon B.Perkinson	\$ 20,614.00	\$ 10,026.00	\$ 8,307.00
1966	Leon B.Perkinson	\$ 25,155.00	\$ 12,760.00	\$ 8,700.00
1967	Leon B.Perkinson	\$ 23,156.00	\$ 12,783.00	\$ 7,981.00
1968	Leon B.Perkinson	\$ 22,941.00	\$ 12,086.00	\$ 8,970.00
1969	Leon B.Perkinson	\$ 24,122.00	\$ 11,633.00	\$ 10,531.00
1970	Leon B.Perkinson	\$ 26,571.00	\$ 13,769.00	\$ 9,178.00
1971	Leon B.Perkinson	\$ 31,107.00	\$ 14,350.00	\$ 11,003.00
1972	Leon B.Perkinson	\$ 50,283.00	\$ 17,879.00	\$ 14,626.00
1973	Leon B.Perkinson	\$ 62,830.00	\$ 26,461.00	\$ 14,896.00
1974	Leon B.Perkinson	\$ 65,210.00	\$ 16,270.00	\$ 16,250.00
1975	Leon B.Perkinson	\$ 56,895.00	\$ 32,763.00	\$ 19,884.00
1976	Leon B.Perkinson	\$ 62,728.00	\$ 39,248.00	\$ 20,766.00
1977	Leon B.Perkinson	\$ 61,295.00	\$ 38,060.00	\$ 21,275.00
1978	Leon B.Perkinson	\$ 82,601.00	\$ 43,490.00	\$ 26,652.00
1979	Leon B.Perkinson	\$ 90,091.00	\$ 45,342.00	\$ 34,543.00
1980	Leon B.Perkinson	\$ 84,450.00	\$ 38,534.00	\$ 35,564.00
1981	Leon B.Perkinson	\$ 91,536.00	\$ 47,272.00	\$ 37,768.00
1982	Leon B.Perkinson	\$ 105,283.00	\$ 60,594.00	\$ 32,500.00
1983	Leon B.Perkinson	\$ 114,348.00	\$ 56,111.00	\$ 44,911.00
1984	Leon B.Perkinson	\$ 129,400.00	\$ 65,825.00	\$ 50,645.00
1985	Leon B.Perkinson	\$ 104,804.00	\$ 30,174.00	\$ 27,183.00
1986	Leon B.Perkinson	\$ 132,305.00	\$ 68,769.00	\$ 51,682.00
1987	Leon B.Perkinson	\$ 147,833.00	\$ 64,300.00	\$ 61,498.00
1988	Leon B.Perkinson	\$ 159,034.00	\$ 63,376.00	\$ 63,461.00
1989	Leon B.Perkinson	\$ 167,259.00	\$ 60,266.00	\$ 78,003.00



1990	Leon B.Perkinson	\$	203,899.00	\$	94,738.00	\$	59,883.00
1991	Leon B.Perkinson	\$	185,837.00	\$	75,718.00	\$	81,058.00
1992	Evelyn Marshburn	\$	201,276.00	\$	108,422.00	\$	70,697.00
1993	Betty Wheeler	\$	189,696.00	\$	28,612.00	\$	70,835.00
1994	Betty Wheeler	\$	194,346.00	\$	35,429.00	\$	64,527.00
1995	Betty Wheeler	\$	201,656.00	\$	46,435.00	\$	67,939.00
1996	Betty Wheeler	\$	215,636.00	\$	91,035.00	\$	86,695.00
1997	Betty Wheeler	\$	<u>202,881.00</u>	\$	<u>82,591.00</u>	\$	<u>61,309.00</u>
Fifty Year Totals		\$	3,675,740.37	\$	1,580,085.94	\$	1,346,988.80

## CHAPTER SEVEN

### THE MUSIC MINISTRY

When The Butner Baptist Church made the decision to adopt a Constitution which stated that, "The Articles of Faith commonly known as **"The New Hampshire Confession"** constitute The Articles of Faith held by this body, the church body made a statement about many concerns. One of the statements they clearly made had to do with the measure and emphasis they would place upon music in the total program of the church.

Had they adopted **"The Philadelphia Confession"** as the articles of faith for this church the use of a musical instrument, such as the piano or organ in their worship services, would have been in question. Some churches of this persuasion permit the use of a musical instrument and others do not.

The Butner Baptist Church stated emphatically that major emphasis would be placed on the singing of praises unto the Lord, and that the singing of these praises would be accompanied by an instrument.



**On the day the church was organized the Charter Members had a piano in the old chapel. Mrs. Grover Jacobs was seated at the piano when the original picture of the Charter Members was taken.**

It is understood that Mrs. Jacobs was the Church Pianist some time after the organization of the church.

In December of 1949, the Reverend Clyde Melton became pastor of the church. Rev. Melton's wife was an organist, and in July of 1950, Reverend Melton urged the church to purchase an organ. The church was short of the essential funds for the down payment and Rev. Melton loaned the church \$485.00 for the down payment of a Consanata Organ. We know, therefore, that the church purchased an organ in the middle of 1950. Soon after the purchase of the organ the Rev. & Mrs. Melton left Butner

Baptist and he became pastor of Providence Baptist Church. His wife became Organist at Providence. (See the article, "Brother Melton and the Church Organ" in the chapter related to the pastors of the church.)

On October 17, 1965, Deacon Bill Tunstall made a motion that the church purchase a new organ "in the Spring". The motion carried.

I have just talked with Mr. Tunstall ,(May 11,1998) and he informed me that the Connsonata Organ that is referred to above had lost its effectiveness and that Mr. & Mrs. Norman Kelly wanted to purchase an organ in memory of their niece. Mr. Tunstall thinks it was March or April of 1966, that Mr. & Mrs. Kelly purchased a Baldwin Organ and

traded in the old Connsonata that was purchased in 1950. (He thinks the company allowed the Kellys a small amount for the old organ.)

This Baldwin was "The Church Organ" until after March 3, 1974. On this date Deacon Chairman Vernon Morton made a motion that the church purchase a new organ. He stated that the deacons had received \$3,000 from the sale of the pews from the old chapel and that they had, or could, receive \$1,500.00 for the Baldwin Organ. The church voted that day to purchase the organ that is now in the sanctuary.

Verbal information has been conveyed that when the new sanctuary was constructed in 1972-73, the sound chambers were built into the structure. The Baldwin Organ, while it possessed 'built in' speakers, was connected to the speakers in the sound chambers that are located above and on either side of the choir loft. The smaller Baldwin Organ did function, but the church found that it wasn't large enough to provide the quality and volume needed for the speakers in the sound chambers and the new sanctuary. Thus the need existed to purchase an organ that was appropriate in size and output for the new sanctuary.

The Baldwin Organ was sold to Mrs. Wade Miller for \$1,500. She kept it a while and sold it to the Union Baptist Church which is near Northside. This writer visited The Union Baptist Church with Wade Miller recently and took a picture of this organ. It is still functioning and serving the needs of the church.

## **THE EARLY YEARS, THE CHOIR DIRECTORS AND THE INSTRUMENTALISTS**

The date for the first minutes of a Church Conference in our possession is October, 1954. Those minutes state that The Reverend Harold Lester had written that he would accept the call of the church to become its pastor. The next paragraph reads, "The church voted unanimously for Mrs. Harold Lester (to serve) as Organist and Mrs. Edwin Bullock as Choir Director." On February 20, 1955, the church voted to accept the resignation of Mrs. Bullock as Choir Director and the pastor was instructed to write Mrs. Bullock a letter of appreciation for her services. While not stated in so many words, it is indicated that Mrs. Bullock was ill. When the church accepted Mrs. Bullock's resignation it elected Mrs. Harold Lester to serve as Choir Director as well as Organist- "until we can get someone else as Mrs. Lester has already been made Organist , and both would be too much for her."

Mrs. Lester evidently served as both Organist and Choir Director until June 24, 1956. Her husband resigned and that was the last day of his services as pastor.

The Reverend Milton Snyder is listed in the Minutes of the Flat River Baptist Association as Minister of Music at Butner, commencing in 1956. He evidently followed Mrs. Harold Lester. There is no mention of another organist or pianist until the minutes of the Association lists Dr. Donald McDonald as Pianist in 1957.



Milton Snyder served as Minister of Music from 1956 through 1960. He was a local chaplain and served as a deacon of the church at least one term.

The next mention of anyone serving as either Organist or Choir Director was in the church conference dated October 9, 1960. On that date Mr. Fred Badders was elected to the position of "Minister of Music".

On September 23, 1962, Mr. Fenton Morehead was recommended by the Music Committee and was unanimously elected by the church in conference to become "Minister of Music".



The next mention of a Church Organist or Pianist is found in the minutes of the church for March 16, 1969. On that date Mrs. Brenda Ellis resigned as Organist. On that same day the deacons recommended that the salary of the Organist be raised to the sum of \$75.00 per month. This recommendation passed the church in conference, and the church elected Mrs. Evelyn Whitfield to replace Mrs. Ellis as Church Organist.

During this same conference dated March 16, 1969, the church elected Mrs. Maurice Wright as Choir Director. Mrs. Wright served in this capacity until March 26, 1972.

On September 24, 1972, Mrs. Gloria Fernandez was elected, by secret ballot, to become Choir Director. She served less than two months, resigning in October, 1972.

On January 5, 1975, Deacon Chairman Ray Morgan informed the church in conference that the deacons had rewritten the job description for the Church Organist's position. He further stated that Mrs. Whitfield felt that she could not meet the requirements established in the new position description, and that she had resigned. The deacons recommended Mrs. James Rock to become the Church Organist, and Mrs. Rock continued in this position until early 1998 with the exception of one year, 1979, when Mrs. Larry Russell served as Organist for that one year.

On August 29, 1976, Deacon Chairman Warren Blinson recommended Rev. James Pearson to become Associate Pastor and Music Director. He was elected and accepted the position effective September 1, 1976.

The enrollment of the choir is first mentioned in the Associational minutes in 1953. The Choir enrollment is listed in these minutes as 20 from 1953-55. The enrollment jumped from 20 to 25 in 1956 and to 63 in 1957. However, the enrollment dropped back down to the 20's in 1958 and remained there until 1962. When Fenton Morehead became Music Director in 1962 the enrollment jumped to 41. The Choir enrollment remained in the 30 to 50 range until 1971. During the period 1971-1974 there is no record of Choir enrollment. The Associational minutes lists the Choir enrollment as 106 in 1975 and 116 in 1976. ( When we observe that the church had more than 25 to 30 enrolled in the choir we

must think in terms of several choirs- including children and youth choirs.) The enrollment dropped down to 70 in 1977, and retained an average of about 60 from 1978-1995. The enrollment jumped to 86 in 1997.

**Please see the page following this narrative for a table which indicates the persons who have served as Music Directors, Organists and Pianists during the history of the church.**



The records in the minutes of the Association do not indicate that Butner had a pianist during the years between 1975 and 1995. In discussing this matter with some in the church I have found that in the absence of an officially

elected person to the position of Organist or Pianist they were not reported to the Association as such. Thus we have had a number of persons serve in these capacities on a volunteer basis whose names have not been listed. Mrs. Evelyn Whitfield and Mrs. Brenda Ellis volunteered their services as pianist but were not listed as such in the minutes of the Flat River Association .

Fred Badders (Left above) was Minister of Music in 1960 and a part of 1961, and Lawrence Vines,( Pictured on the right above) held this position a portion of 1979 and 1980



## **BLACKWOOD-WILKINSON STARTS A NEW ERA IN FIRST BAPTIST MUSIC MINISTRY**

On September 9, 1981, the minutes state, "Kathie Blackwood has been hired as interim choir director for the adult choir."



This information was given in a casual manner. The statement came from Bess Bush, Chairlady of the deacons. No official action was taken by the church in that conference. Ms. Bush began her statement with a notation that the deacons had voted to charge five cents for copies made on the xerox machine and concluded with the announcement that Blackwood had been hired. Ms. Bush likely had no idea that Ms. Blackwood would remain in that interim position for six years at the time she made the announcement.

In fact, the Choirs, especially the Youth Choirs, showed great promise during Mrs. Blackwood-Wilkinson's tenure of service. Hand Bells were purchased and Hand Bell Choirs were organized and rehearsals were held after school during afternoons. Children and Youth Choirs were organized.

Ms. Blackwood held the position as "Ms. Blackwood" during 1981-82-83. In 1984 she is listed as Kathie Wilkinson, and remained in the position as Minister of Music until May 14, 1986. She had married a man named Tim Wilkinson who served a spell as a deacon of the church.

According to the Minutes of the Flat River Association , in the Church Music Report, The First Baptist Church of Butner had an average enrollment in the choirs of 47 during Ms. Blackwood-Wilkinson's tenure at the church.

She served in this capacity until March 11, 1986. On Sunday, March 11<sup>th</sup> she read her resignation to the congregation . She gave the effective date of the resignation as July 31, 1986. The following Wednesday night, on recommendation of the deacons, a majority of the church members present and voting, voted to accept her resignation effective, not on July 31<sup>st</sup> , but effective that night, March 14<sup>th</sup>. They voted to pay her through July 31<sup>st</sup>. Thus ended the career of Kathie Blackwood-Wilkinson at the First Baptist Church of Butner.



A young man whose name was John Dekle served a ten month period after Blackwood-Wilkinson left and before Dana Gassaway was elected to serve as Minister of Music.

**Deacon Lenny Rogers** has served the church as Music Director when the church didn't have a paid staff member in this position. (Deacon Rogers has served in this position since Laura Abernethy resigned in October of 1996.)



## **GASSAWAY IS ELECTED AS MINISTER OF MUSIC**

On March 30, 1988, Mrs. Gloria Minor, Chair-person of the music Search Committee, was recognized in Church Conference. "Mrs. Minor made a motion that Danna Gassaway be hired as Minister of Music on a part-time basis, (twenty hours per week) and that the salary be \$7,202.00 as recommended in the church budget."

On April 2, 1988, following the morning worship service, a brief conference was called for the purpose of considering the election of

Danna Gassaway as Minister of Music. The vote was by secret ballot and Mr. Gassaway received a majority of the votes cast.

Mr. Gassaway served in this position until he finished his studies at the Southeastern Seminary at Wake Forest, North Carolina. He then was hired on a full-time basis and was given the additional duties as Minister of Children and Youth.

Gassaway remained at First Baptist until the First Sunday in June, 1994. His salary was approximately \$34,000 annually counting all benefits- including a housing allowance- at the time of his resignation.

Danna Gassaway went to work as a teacher for a school that furnished educational programs for the Navy. It was understood that he would be teaching sailors aboard a Navy ship.

## **LAURA ABERNETHY IS ELECTED AS MUSIC DIRECTOR**

On February 5, 1995, Laura Abernethy, from Asheville, North Carolina, was elected by secret ballot to become Minister of Music, children and Youth.



The preceding Wednesday evening, during an information session about Ms. Abernethy, the pastor stated that her annual salary package would be \$28,000.

Ms. Abernethy continued in this position until October 13, 1996. During her tenure the enrollment of the choirs was 78 and 66.

Ms. Abernethy stated at the time she was called to the church to direct the music program that she would move to Butner. However, soon after she came on the job she requested and was granted permission to continue to live in her Raleigh Apartment

On October 13, 1996, the Personnel Committee requested that Ms. Abernethy resign. She did so and returned to Asheville North Carolina.

## **DEACON ROGERS RESUMES LEADERSHIP OF THE MUSIC PROGRAM**

As had been true on a number of occasions in the past, when the church found itself without a Choir Director again it called upon Deacon Lenny Rogers and he has responded.

Mr. Rogers works full-time as Assistant Superintendent at Umstead Correctional Center, but finds time to come over to the church on Wednesday evenings for Choir Practice and to lead the choir and congregational singing on Sunday morning.

He completed the year in 1996, did all of 1997, and has continued the Music Program work during 1998.

## **INSTRUMENTALISTS OVER THE YEARS**

On the day the church was organized Mrs. Grover Jacobs was seated at the piano. Mrs. Jacobs lives in a Nursing Home in Warren County now. She must have served the church as Pianist for an extended period after its organization. I have been unable to find the name of any other who is named as Pianist until 1957.

In any case she holds that distinct honor of being there at the piano when the church was organized, and of serving as the first Pianist of the church.

In 1957, a Dr. Donald McDonald is listed as Pianist of the church.





From 1958 until 1961 Miss LaRue Blinson served as Pianist. In 1961, Miss. Blinson became Mrs. Daniel and continued as Pianist as Mrs. LaRue Daniel until 1965. That is a total of eight years LaRue served the church in its early years.

Ms. Blinson-Daniel was followed at the piano in 1966, by Mrs. Bob Thomas who served one year.

In 1967, Mrs. Joe Bryant became Pianist, and served until 1974, a total of eight years. The records do not show an official Pianist during the years 1975-1995.

There were pianists during those years. They just were not shown in the Minutes of the Flat River Association- the source of our information for these matters.

During the years 1961-1967 Mrs. LaRue Daniel is shown as Pianist and Organist. In 1968, Mrs. Brenda Ellis became Church Organist and served for one year. She was followed at



the Organ by Mrs. Evelyn Whitfield who served in that position until 1974. As has been pointed out previously, Mrs. Laura Rock served from 1975 until February of 1998 as Church Organist. (There was one year, 1979, when a Mrs. Larry Russell is shown to have served as Church Organist. Mrs. Rock holds the record for having served as a staff member of the First Baptist Church of Butner- twenty-three years.

In 1996, Mrs. LaRue Daniel came back as Church Pianist. She served in this position until 1998, and when Mrs. Rock resigned as Church Organist, Mrs. Daniel moved over and became Church Organist. Mrs. Joe Bryant has returned to the Piano in 1998.



church

The Baldwin Organ, seen at the left, has self-contained speakers. It was purchased and given to the church in 1967 by Mr. And Mrs Norman Kelly in memory of their niece. It was sold to Mrs. Wade Miller after the new, much larger Rodgers organ was purchased. Mrs. Miller in turn sold this organ to the Union Baptist Church near Northside, and it is still in use in that

It is now thirty-one years old and is still going strong.



Laura Rock at the Rodgers Organ she loved so much. When she started as Organist she played the Baldwin shown above. She was the first to play the Rodgers, Intermediate shown below. (See tributes from Choir members on this and the next page.)



## **ORGANIST LAURA ROCK RESIGNED AFTER TWENTY-THREE YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE KINGDOM OF GOD!**

The following is only a portion of those who have expressed appreciation for Ms. Rock's life and work.

Mrs. Laura Rock is seen above at the organ she loved and loved to play. Her resignation has been received with shock and dismay by all who knew and loved her. We could accommodate only a few who would have liked to say, "Thank you, Laura. We love you."

"I was always amazed at her ability to play any hymn on the spur of the moment. And without the benefit of (printed) music.. She had the ability to follow the choir director and the singers even when we were off-key. She is a true professional. " **Peggy McSwain**

"I have nothing but praise for Laura Rock." **Hazel Isom**

“Laura was Organist when Lawrence Vines was Choir Director. She is a quite person and a true professional. I am sorry that she is not with us any longer.” **Lottie Mae Lester**

“Laura served as choir director as well as Organist at times. I think she was Choir Directort at Creedmoor at one time. We were fortunate to have her as our Organist. She is a professional. We were lucky to have her.- **Myrtle Holy**

“I thought a lot of Laura. She was one of the best Organist we have ever had. I was very sorry when she resigned.” - **Alva Wheless**

“ I was always thrilled to be associated her musical presentations. She was an enjoyable person to be around, and you knew that she was the best.” - **Lester Montague**

“ I have been in many choirs across the years, and never have I come across an Organist as talented as she is. Laura can take a piece of music that she has never played before and play it with few errors. She is a reserved person, but I like her. She is a friend.” =**Linda Shaw**

“ Laura was Organist at the church for twenty-three years. She was talented, well trained, professional and dedicated. During the majority of her tenure as Organist I was a member of the Adult Choir, and looking back, my first thoughts of her as Organist are that she was always present and prepared before we arrived. She was willing to change at the last moment if the need arose. I am grateful for all her hard work.” -**Nancy Rogers**

“ She was wonderful. Some of us didn’t know musical notes and she would always hep us when we called on her.” - **Joy Barbour**

The history of the Music Department would have been incomplete in the absence of the above. Thank you for your comments, and “Thank You” Ms. Rock.



**Mrs. Lydie Mae Bryant** served as Pianist from 1967 til 1974. While records do not reflect it, it is likely that she served longer. The procedure was begun that said that only paid staff members were listed in the minutes of the Association.



### An Earlier Choir



Pictured above: L/R-Back Row. Evelyn Whitfield, Marie Jones, Nancy Rogers, Edna Yates, Melvin Lester, Carolyn Oakley, Lottie Mae Lester and Hazel Isom.

Front Row, L/R: Sharon Wheless, Caroline Peach, Hazel Fisher, Alva Wheless, Ronald Wheless, Warren Blinson and Dora Moore.

### An Earlier Youth Choir



Sorry. I have asked several, but we do not know all the members of this choir. Those whose names we know are as follows: Back Row, L/R: Katrina Gray, Sally Peach, David Morgan, Greg Peach & Ronald Wheless.

Front Row: L/R: Linda Fisher, Peggy Strickland, Andrea Morgan, Debra Willette and Donna Willette. Didn't learn who the last one is.



### The present Choir



Seen here: 1998 Choir: Back Row: L/R Lenny Rogers, Director, Alva Wheless, Chandler Wynn, Andy Fisher, Dannie Barbour and Jim McSwain. Center Row, L/R- Betty Aiken , Hazel Isom, Lottie Mae Lester, Nancy Rogers, and Vicki Wynn, Front Row-L/R, Joy Barbour, Peggy Pegram, Peggy McSwain and Myrtle Holt.

# **FIRST BAPTIST DEDICATES SAMICK PIANO TO THE MEMORY OF KENNETH WAYNE WHEELER!**

"The Lord is my strength and my song" (Exodus 15:2) With this appropriate Scripture, the pastor led the people in a "Litany of Dedication", on Sunday afternoon, July 23, 1995.

There followed a service characterized by dignity , devotion to the memory of a son and friend, and dedication of an instrument that will enable God's people in the worship experience for years to come.

Two realities converged in the presentation and dedication of this piano. The storm had come and the previous piano had been demolished. The insurance wasn't adequate for the restoration of a comparable instrument, and the church needed a piano. Hallie and Macon Wheeler had endured the storms of grief at the loss of their twenty-seven year-old son, Kenneth Wayne, over five years previous. They and their friends needed the opportunity to say "Farewell" to Kenneth Wayne appropriately and with closure.



The beautiful music provided by this Samick piano met the need of the church. The service of dedication, which involved the deeply spiritual application of the quality of the chords, the voices of the people in song and the ability of the Master Musician on the keyboard, stirred the souls of all of those present, especially Kenneth's family and friends. As this family and these friends sang, "Because He Lives", at the conclusion of the dedication service, the significance of March 18, 1989, (The date of Kenneth's

death), diminished somewhat as the impact of the events of July 23, 1995, were remembered and cherished.

**This Piano is Dedicated to the Memory of :**

***Kenneth Wayne Wheeler***

**1962**

**1989**

**BY HALLIE AND MACON WHEELER, AND FAMILY AND FRIENDS.**

**DEDICATED THIS TWENTY-THIRD DAY OF JULY, 1995**

# CHURCH MUSIC MINISTRY

## PAGE

Year	Minlster of Music	Enrollment	Pianist	Organist
1948			Mrs. Grover Jacobs	
1949				Mrs.Clyde Melton
1950				Mrs. Betty Sharpe
1951				
1952				
1953		20		
1954	Mrs. Edwin Bullock/'till 2/1/!	20		Mrs.Harold Lester
1955	Mrs.Harold Lester	20		Mrs.Harold Lester
1956	Mrs.Lester 'till 7/1/56-Snydr	25		Mrs.Lester'till 7/1/56
1957	Milton Snyder	63	Dr. Donald McDonald	
1958	Milton Snyder	25	Miss LaRue Blinson	
1959	Milton Snyder	28	Miss LaRue Blinson	
1960	Fred Badders	23	Miss LaRue Blinson	
1961	Fred Badders &Truman Mc	28	Mrs. LaRue Daniel	Mrs. LaRue Daniel
1962	Fenton Morehead	41	Mrs. LaRue Daniel	Mrs. LaRue Daniel
1963	Steve Creech	38	Mrs. LaRue Daniel	Mrs. LaRue Daniel
1964	Steve Creech	45	Mrs. LaRue Daniel	Mrs. LaRue Daniel
1965	Steve Creech	53	Mrs. LaRue Daniel	Mrs. LaRue Daniel
1966		25	Mrs. R. Thomas	Mrs. Larue Daniel
1967		18	Mrs. Joe Bryant	Mrs. LaRue Daniel
1968	Kern Holoman	33	Mrs. Joe Bryant	Mrs. Brenda Ellis
1969		18	Mrs. Joe Bryant	Mrs. Evelyn Whitfield
1970	Mrs. Maurice Wright	39	Mrs. Joe Bryant	Mrs. Evelyn Whitfield
1971	Mrs. Maurice Wright		Mrs. Joe Bryant	Mrs. Evelyn Whitfield
1972			Mrs. Joe Bryant	Mrs. Evelyn Whitfield
1973			Mrs. Joe Bryant	Mrs. Evelyn Whitfield
1974	Edward R. Lycett		Mrs. Joe Bryant	Mrs. Evelyn Whitfield
1975	Eddie Johnson	106		Mrs. James Rock
1976	Rev. James Pearson	116		Mrs. James Rock
1977	Rev. James Pearson	70		Mrs. James Rock
1878	Mrs. Harley Cecil	50		Mrs. James Rock
1979	Keith Dixon & Lawrence Vii	83		Mrs. Larry Russell
1980	Lawrence Vines	44		Mrs. Laura Rock
1981	Kathie Blackwood	32		Mrs. Laura Rock
1982	Kathie Blackwood	45		Mrs. Laura Rock
1983	Kathie Blackwood	42		Mrs. Laura Rock
1984	Kathie Wilkinson	54		Mrs. Laura Rock
1985	Kathie Wilkinson	66		Mrs. Laura Rock
1986	Kathie Wilkinson	48		Mrs. Laura Rock
1987	John Dekel (11 Months)	52		Mrs. Laura Rock
1988	Dana Gasaway	66		Mrs. Laura Rock
1989	Dana Gasaway	39		Mrs. Laura Rock



		PAGE		
1990	Dana Gasaway	55		Mrs. Laura Rock
1991	Dana Gasaway	38		Mrs. Laura Rock
1992	Dana Gasaway	37		Mrs. Laura Rock
1993	Dana Gasaway	45		Mrs. Laura Rock
1994	Neil Wheeler	43		Mrs. Laura Rock
1995	Laura Abemethy-3/6/95-10	78		Mrs. Laura Rock
1996	Lenny Rogers	66	Mrs. LaRue Daniel	Mrs. Laura Rock
1997	Lenny Rogers	86	Mrs. LaRue Daniel	Mrs. Laura Rock
1998	Lenny Rogers		Mrs. LaRue Daniel	Mrs. Laura Rock *

**Persons who served short  
periods as interim**  
Norman Derosiers  
Mrs. Juan Fernandez

Mrs. Rock Resigned in Feb. 1998 \*)

## CHAPTER EIGHT

### THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

The Sunday School Records Chart at the end of this section gives the following information: The year, Enrollment, Average Attendance and the Superintendent. A further breakdown gives the number of children, young people, adults and General Officers, with the total enrollment, the average attendance and the Vacation Bible School Enrollment. These records came from the Minutes of the Association.

I have received verbal information that a sort of Community Church existed prior to 1948, and that this church was held over in an old building at Piedmont Village. I strongly suspect that a Sunday School of sorts was held along side this Community Church. A Sunday School usually precedes the existence of a church. In fact, since the above statement was written I have found that the Interdenominational group who met at Piedmont Village did indeed hold a Sunday School.

**Lydia Mae Bryant is the present Sunday School Director. She is seen here with her husband, Deacon Joe Bryant Jr,**



I am not going to repeat here information that is apparent in the chart. I would encourage you to take a close look at the chart and observe patterns that developed in terms of the enrollment of the various age groups and the average attendance each year.

The enrollment turned in to the Association in 1949 was 76. It is apparent that the church realized that the church needed the Sunday School for the reasons of Bible Study and for future growth. The first six years in the life of the church saw a Sunday School growth from 76 to 337. This included the extension program with an enrollment of 41 and 75 during 1953, 1954 and 1955.

During the years 1960-1968, the average attendance of the Sunday School was over 200. The average attendance has had an overall decrease since 1968. Over the nineteen year span from 1968-1997 the average attendance of the Sunday School has decreased from 190 in 1968 to 83 in 1997.

Let us hope and pray that the next fifty years will show greater participation in Bible Study through the Sunday School than has been the case over the past twenty years.



**Kelly Stephenson and Abby Henry are all smiles for their Teacher, Lisa Edwards. This is the two and three year-old Class.**



**4 & 5 Year Olds: Hunter Brantley, Trey Cooper, Luke Tunstall and Casey Stephenson are taught by Mrs. Pat Willis and Ethel Gilliam.**





**Grades 5 & 6: Alisha Evers, Heather Gupton, Maggie Smoak and Amanda Patterson are taught by Edward (Pete) Willis**



**Grades 7-12:** Kim Wilkins, Trey Brooks, Kristie Daniels, Scott Daniels and Aaron Harris are taught by Lenny Rogers and David Rooks.



**Willing Workers Class:** Dawn Henry, Bill Slaughter, Susan Brantley and Vikki Tunstall are present for the class taught by William (Bill) Tunstall.





Jim and Peggy McSwain, Chandler and Vicki Wynn, Donald James, Esther Ihlenburg, Bobby and Rachel Stone, Shirley and Billy Gupton, Wilma Tunstall, Sharon Brown, Linda Shaw, Nancy Rogers, Dannie and Joy Barbour composed the Middle-age Coeds when this picture was taken. Esther Ihlenburg and Melvin

Lester were Co-Assistant Teachers prior to Ms. Ihlenburg moving from the community after her husband's death. Jim McSwain is the Teacher.



Susan Coley is the teacher of the Fidelis Class. Students present on this January 24, 1998 were: Pearl Patterson, Alma Roberson, Marion Ellis, Oie Boyce, Frances Bowden, Sally Powell, Bea Tucker and Lula Jones.





The Searchers Class is taught by Mrs. Molley Gupton, probably the matriarch of our church. She is seated and surrounded by her younger students: Adell Wheelless, Jackie Register, Ruth Parrish, Annie Thompson, Mozelle Montague, Eloise Lewis, and Ruth Wilkins



GA Service 1979-80

Dolly Rooks, Christy Oakley, Sandy Trautman, Charline Emory, Lisa Gupton, Lisa Clayton, Pam Jones, Barbara Wilder, Pam Rooks, Chris Emory

# SUNDAY SCHOOL RECORDS

Year	Enrollment				Avg. Att.		Superintendent	
	Children	Young People	Adults	G.O.	Total Enrolled	Avg. Attendance	V.B.S Enr.	Sup't. Name
1949	36	17	21	2	76	49	20	J.H. Eason
1950	62	8	28	2	100	70	72	W.E. Bullock
1951	50	9	42	2	103	71	72	W.M.Rich
1952	92	35	52	2	181			Norman Kelly
1953	124	40	55(+ext.41)	2	264	150	90	M.O. Lester
1954	134	40	55(+ext.41)	2	264	150	90	M.O. Lester
1955	146	35	76(+ext.75)	2	337	178	98	M.O. Lester
1956	126	39	69	2	236	150		Leon Perkinson
1957	119	40	64	2	225	113	125	A.C.Harrison
1958	140	10	69	2	221	141	106	M.O.Lester
1959	172	38	92	2	304	171	118	Norman Kelly
1960	206	45	102	2	355	199	156	Norman Kelly
1961	194	49	97	2	342		159	Bryant Minor
1962	204	49	88	2	343	200	174	Norman Kelly
1963	217	37	82	2	338	194		Carlyle Morris
1964	159	89	90	2	340	221	169	Robert R.Thomas
1965	157	98	93	2	350	211	127	Norman Kelly
1966	182	51	106	2	341	225	150	Norman Kelly
1967	193	36	114	2	345	200	132	Norman Kelly
1968	187	42	120	2	351	190	130	Norman Kelly
1969	180	62	115	2	359	181	120	Norman Kelly
1970	170	20	121	2	313	151	101	Ray Harris
1971	163	32	55	2	252	138	107	Ray Morgan
1972	187	24	85	2	298	149	158	Ray Morgan
1973	117	74	121	2	314	148	174	Pete Willis
1974	116	83	114	2	315	140	162	Pete Willis
1975	124	95	120	2	341	130	130	Joe Bryant, III
1976	128	86	129	2	345	145	178	Joe Bryant, III
1977	197	41	206	2	446	139	183	Tommy Whitfield
1978	184	39	185	2	410	152	164	Ray Morgan
1979	175	25	167	2	369	146	168	Ray Morgan
1980	168	25	130	2	325	147	161	Chris Emory
1981	168	9	131	2	310	156	155	Chris Emory
1982	171	13	144	2	330	150	126	Chris Emory
1983	173	10	102	2	287	145	137	Chris Emory
1984	174	6	151	2	333	150	134	Pam & Ron Daniels
1985	176	17	124	2	319	126	106	Pam & Ron Daniels
1986	172	12	102	2	288	137	159	Chris Emory
1987	142	17	141	2	302	126	156	Chris Emory
1988	151	0	146	2	299	143	153	Chris Emory
1989	103	0	147	2	252	135	155	Dennis Lester
1990	123	0	119	2	244	135	124	Dennis Lester
1991	99	0	117	2	218	128	135	Dennis Lester
1992	106	0	110	2	218	116	126	Lenny Rogers
1993	101	0	99	2	202	104	113	Sue Morton
1994	71	0	95	2	168	92	100	Sue Morton
1995	64	0	99	2	165	95	137	Ron Daniel
1996	63	0	100	2	165	90	112	Ron Daniel
1997	43	10	88	5	146	83	107	Lydia Mae Bryant
1998								Lydia Mae Bryant

## **CHAPTER NINE**

### **MEMBERSHIP OF THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH**

When the 1996 Associational Year was closed out The First Baptist Church of Butner had 404 resident members and 96 non-resident members, for a total of 500 members. At the conclusion of the 1980 and 1981 Associational Year the church reported its largest membership. The report indicated a total membership of 561 for each of those years. That was, of course the high in terms of total membership. The low was the membership reported as Charter Members which was 34.

It should be pointed out in light of the above discussion of the total membership of the church that this church, and all Baptist Churches, find it necessary to redefine the membership roles of the church over a period of time. Members move away. Some of those who move away either die or join another church and the church of which they have been a member has no choice but to update their roles in light of the information that church has, or doesn't have, in its possession.

The first group of members consisted largely of employees at John Umstead Hospital and the other institutions of Butner.

Age-wise, the larger number of active members would be considered Senior Citizens, and most of these Senior Citizen members have retired from one of the institutions- primarily John Umstead Hospital.

A count at one of the recent morning worship services revealed this membership status: On that particular Sunday there were 127 in the sanctuary. This included the choir but did not include those in the church nursery. Of the 127 persons present, 81 were 55 years old or older. That particular Sunday there were almost as many males as females present. There were 58 men and boys. If my math is correct this means there a total of 69 ladies and girls present.

The church membership is composed of all-white congregation. One black has joined the church in its history. In 1977 a young man named Larry Holding joined the church. Records indicate that Mr. Holding was baptised in 1978.

Indications are that the First Baptist Church has never had a race related problem. Blacks attend the church whenever they wish, and there would be no objection should a Black express a desire to join the church today.

The copy of the minutes below will reflect that the church, by a very narrow margin, voted to reject Blacks from membership in 1963, but, in the same breath, the church also said that this policy of rejection could be overturned at any time. And indeed, that policy was overturned. There is no statement in our Constitution that indicates that any person would be denied membership in The First Baptist Church because of his/her race.



Before one is judgmental regarding the 1963 action of the church regarding admitting Blacks to the programs of the church one must view this action in the context of the times and events occurring during those times.

The social revolution was beginning to gain impetus during those early years of the sixties. Tempers flared from all directions and the changes that have since occurred in this country were only beginning. Historically, the Christian Church has been slow to change or to accept change. That the vote was 66 persons for integration and only 71 persons voting against the integrating of the church is only slightly less than miraculous for a Baptist Church in North Carolina in 1963. The minutes below are just as I received them. ES

### Butner Baptist Church

dividing the Sanctuary of the church and Sunday School rooms. Our membership has grown so much that the extra space is needed. It is estimated approximately \$2500.00 will be needed. Second by M.O. Lester. Approved unanimously by the church.

September 8, 1963

Church called in conference report given by Mr. John Daniel, Chairman of the nominating Committee.

Church voted to send Mr. A.C. Harrison as our Representative on Associational Executive Committee. This will be the third time he has served on this for the church.

Today was a very special day for our church. The deacons brought a motion or recommendation that each member cast his own vote on whether we admit people of all races to worship in our church or not. This was seconded by Mr. R.D. Helt. There had quite a discussion. Mr. & Mrs. Frank Allen, Mrs. Blalock felt that the deacons should have made their proposal more to the point. It appeared that more questions came from some members that had not been to church for several weeks. This subject had been discussed many times - was in the Visitor our church paper. Mr. Bush, our pastor, explained why in his column. Mr. Robert R. Thomas, former deacon, having resigned had great the responsibility is on our

## Bulwer Baptist Church

deacon spoke in their behalf. That he felt no other choice could have been made by them.

The vote was cast and again during the evening worship.

The vote was not unanimous but was carried by a large majority.

September 15, 1963

Mr. Buel called church in conference to vote for deacons, trustees and committee for Planning & Development. Added three deacons making a total of twelve deacons. Business of last Sunday brought back voted 66 for intergration 71 voted

against intergration. After much discussion on whether the church admit persons of Negro race.

This could be changed at anytime when Deacons and Pastor recommend to the church. Since the vote was so close we might want to change at times change. Pastor made resolution that we might want the change. No objections. Mr. Buel was misunderstood on this subject racial problems. Ask that all pray about this.

It is the policy of Bulwer Baptist Church to welcome all who come to worship God, with the exception of members of the Negro race. This policy is subject to review and reconsideration by the Congregation at anytime when the pastor and deacons think it is necessary.

# CHURCH MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

YEAR	GAINS		LOSSES	TOTAL MEMBERSHIP		YEAR-END
	Baptisms	By Letter		Resident	Non-resident	

Charter Membership is listed as 32 when Church was organized on September 19, 1948.

1949	7	42	6	43	1	44
1950	5	9	2	41	11	52
1951	5	9	6	57	2	59
1952	18	39	2	114	9	123
1953	15	19	9	161	10	171
1954	15	19	9	161	10	171
1955	13	6	5	158	10	168
1956	10	9	8	169	10	179
1957	15	18	10	192	10	202
1958	20	25	8	175	76	251
1959	0	22	3	192	76	268
1960	9	8	3	205	76	281
1961	29	23	5	261	65	326
1962	25	25	17	305	54	359
1963	19	18	8	334	54	388
1964	3	23	29	313	62	375
1965	2	14	49	314	28	342
1966	11	18	8	330	30	360
1967	13	30	17	356	30	386
1968	33	7	21	335	70	405
1969	17	23	16	359	70	429
1970	5	10	19	336	89	425
1971	18	24	17	363	88	451
1972	13	21	26	368	91	459
1973	8	23	5	394	91	485
1974	11	18	17	411	86	497
1975	15	19	22	399	110	509
1976	12	23	21	416	107	523
1977	4	10	20	416	101	517
1978	16	17	16	428	116	544
1979	2	23	21	442	106	548
1980	11	12	10	453	108	561
1981	18	7	25	456	105	561
1982	16	14	81	391	119	510
1983	10	19	10	415	114	529
1984	14	14	16	417	124	541
1985	6	6	27	413	113	526
1986	12	15	27	406	120	526
1987	6	8	9	411	120	531
1988	2	10	15	409	119	528
1989	5	16	22	407	124	531
1990	7	13	21	407	123	530
1991	17	5	33	413	106	519
1992	1	5	15	407	103	510
1993	2	6	10	398	102	500
1994	3	5	24	382	92	474
1995	3	6	9	399	94	493
1996	5	2	5	406	94	500
1997						



First Name	Last Name	First Name	Last Name	First Name	Last Name
Jake C.	Abbott	Lois	Barbour	Douglas	Boone
Judy	Abbott	Dalton	Barbour	James W.	Boone
George	Abernathy	Dannie	Barbour	Edna B.	Boone
Arcessia	Abernathy	Dennis	Barbour	Jane	Boone
Shirley O.	Abbott	Janice	Barbour	Kathy	Boone
Laura	Abernethy	Joy	Barbour	Linda	Boone
Carolyn Lin.	Adams	Roy S.	Beal	Nellie	Boone
Linda	Adams	Alma H.	Barham	Roberta	Boone
Nancy C.	Adams	Roy B.	Barham	Steve	Boone
Joan G	Adcock	Stanley	Barham	A.C.	Bowden
Ophelia	Adcock	Willard L.	Barker	Frances	Bowden
Betty Powell	Aiken	Polly S.	Baxter	Deuard	Bowden
James	Akers	Mrs. Roy S	Beal	Judith	Bowden
Ralph	Akers	James	Beaty	Richard	Bowden
Vicki Yates	Allen	Christopher	Bell	Sylvia	Bowden
Clyde	Allen	Debbie	Bell	Willie Lee	Bowden
Inez	Allen	Mike	Bell	Arthur	Bowles
Linda	Alligood	Donald	Bergman	Mrs. Arthur	Bowles
Ronald	Alligood	Thelma J.	Bergman	Alician (Cissy)	Bowling
Deborah A.	Andrews	Jerry	Berman	Oie	Boyce
Hazel	Andrews	Frances	Blackley	W. P.	Boyce
William	Andrews	J. R.	Blackley	Kenneth	Bradsher
Thomas B	Arnold	Simone	Blackley	Merritt	Bradsher
Ruby	Arnold	Shannon	Blake	Carolyn Jones	Bragg
Mack	Arnold	Charles	Blake	Brenda	Brand
Billy J.	Askins	Ruth	Blake	Stephen	Brand
W. F.	Askins	Hilda	Blalock	Jim	Brand
Ruth	Askins	William W.	Blalock	Jason	Brand
Betty	Austin	W. W.	Blinson	Mary E.	Brantley
Kimberly(Kim)	Austin	Mrs. W. W.	Blinson	Linda P.	Bray
Marcus	Austin	Janet	Blotzer	Bertha	Breedlove
William	Austin	Kellie	Blotzer	Chad	Breedlove
Kay	Ayscue	Mark	Blotzer	Foy	Breedlove
Fred T.	Badders	Shannon	Blotzer	Irene	Breedlove
Donnie	Bailey	Shon	Blotzer	Judy	Breedlove
Eloise J.	Bailey	Amy	Boone	W. T.	Breedlove
Darryl	Baker	Curtis	Boone	Wayne	Breedlove

<b>First Name</b>	<b>Last Name</b>	<b>First Name</b>	<b>Last Name</b>	<b>First Name</b>	<b>Last Name</b>
Sarah	Baker	Andrew	Burgess	John	Coleman
Jimmie	Baker	Jonathan	Burgess	Mrs John	Coleman
Rachel W.	Brewer	Betty L	Bush	Fred	Coley
Donna M.	Brinkley	Donald	Bush	Mrs. Fred	Coley
May	Brnkley	Linda	Bush	Horace	Coley
April	Brogden	Nancy	Bush	Joy	Coley
Barbara	Brogden	Warren T.	Bush	Susan	Coley
Edgar	Brogden	Bess Bush	Perkinson	Melissa (Missey)	Cone
James	Brogden	Arthur	Byrd	Nicki	Cone
Mae	Brogden	Pamela J.	Byrd	Harry	Conte
Neal	Brogden	Stanley	Byrd	David	Cooley
Heather	Brooks	Don	Cahaan	Helen	Cooley
James M.	Brooks	Matthew	Canaday	Steve	Creech
Shannon	Brooks	Lora	Canady	Cathrine	Creech
Susanne	Brooks			A. T.	Cooper
Trey	Brooks	Donna	Carpenter	Mrs. A. T.	Cooper
Anne G.	Browder	Gerald	Carpenter	Bobby	Cooper
Mildred	Brown	Martin	Carpenter	Ginger S.	Cooper
Henry B.	Brown	Paulette	Carpenter	Peggy	Cooper
Sharon Wheless	Brown	Frona	Carrol	Susan C.	Cooper
Teresa	Brown	John	Carrol	Tommy	Cooper
William David	Brown	Sherrie R.	Casey	Terri	Corbet
Heather	Bryant	Dallas	Champion	Louise	Corbett
Joe III	Bryant	Emily	Champion	Michael	Corbett
Joe L. Jr.	Bryant	Susan	Cheek	Michael	Corbett Jr.
Johnny	Bryant	Carmell	Clapp	Faye	Cox
Lydia Mae	Bryant	Gavin	Clapp	Annie Long	Crews
Vicki	Bryant	Ronald	Clapp	Barbara B.	Crews
Diane	Buchanan	Susan	Clapp	Terry M.	Currin
J. V.	Buchanan	LeRoy	Clark	Thomas B.	Currin
Bradley	Bullock	Nancy S.	Clark	Millard L.	Danes
Brenda	Bullock	Brenda	Clayton	Don	Daniel
Edwina	Bullock	Norma	Clayton	Donald T.	Daniel
W. E.	Bullock	Ozelle	Clayton	Germania	Daniel
Mrs. W. E.	Bullock	Sidney	Clayton	James	Daniel
Aileen	Bunn	Vickie	Clayton	John	Daniel
Jean	Bunn	Janet	Cleveland	Mildred	Daniel
N. E.	Bunn	Michelle D.	Clifton	Larue	Daniel
Edna	Bunn	Calvin	Coats	Mary Elizabeth	Daniel-Watkins
Annie	Burchette	Barbara	Cobb	Pat	Daniel

<b>First Name</b>	<b>Last Name</b>	<b>First Name</b>	<b>Last Name</b>	<b>First Name</b>	<b>Last Name</b>
Franklin (Mrs)	Burchette	J. H.	Eason	Hazel	Fisher
Franklin	Burchette	Ronald	Edwards Jr.	Douglas	Fisher
John S	Daniel Sr.	Sandra W.	Edwards	David A,	Fisher (Andy)
John S. Jr.	Daniel Jr.	Lisa	Edwards	Charles E.	Flatt
James	Daniels	Evelyn	Elliott	James M.	Fletcher
Mrs. James	Daniels	Grady	Elliott	James	Forest
Kristie	Daniels	Haskins	Elliott	Karen	Foster
Pamela B.	Daniels	Patricia W.	Elliott	Kenneth S.	Foster
Ronald V.	Daniels	Brenda	Ellis	Richard (Rick)	Foster
Christine	Daubenspeck	Christopher D.	Ellis	Rickey	Foster
Daniel	Daubenspeck	Marion	Ellis	Talmadge	Fowler
Dawn	Daubenspeck	Michael W.	Ellis Jr.	Betty T.	Fowlkes
Sharon	Daubenspeck	Mozelle	Ellis	Mary A.	Freeman
Lemmie	Davenport	Michael W.	Ellis Sr.	Rowena	Frazier
Linnie	Davenport	Charlene	Emory	Robert	Frazier
Clarence	Davis	Christine	Emory	Jane	Frost
Mary	Dawson	Vorita	Emory	Jasper E.	Fullford
Fred M.	Dean	Bettie	Enloe	Annie	Fuller
Fred M.	Dean	Dorothy	Enloe	Ernest	Fuller
Kimberly Austin	Denning	Ida	Enloe	Eula	Fullford
Vivian W.	Denning	Della	Evans	Richard	Fullford
Charles B.	Dennis	Mrs. J.D.	Evans	Louise W.	Galloway
Charlie R.	Dennis	Deborah	Evers	Richard	Garrett
Pattie J.	Dennis	Rose	Evers	Effie	Garrett
Maude	Dickerson	Jeff	Faircloth	Dana	Gasaway
Perry	Dickerson	Joey	Faircloth	Kaye	George
Joe	Doby	John	Faircloth	Linda T.	Gerald
Barbara	Doby	Tommy	Faircloth	Beulah	Gilchrist
Wm.	Doby	Florence	Farmer	Jamie	Gilkes
Louise	Donnell	Charles	Faulkner	Ethel G.	Gilliam
Gerald	Dowdy	Charles Ray	Faulkner	Gary	Gilliam
Stacy	Dowdy	Gladys	Faulkner	William	Gilliam
Brent	Duke	Marion	Faulkner	Boyd	Gillis
Elvin M.	Duke	Steve	Faulkner	Edna	Gillis
Paulette T.	Duke	Norma J.	Ferrell	Mike	Gillis
Phillip V.	Duke	Beth	Fields	Sarah	Gillis
Tammy	Duke	Roger	Fingleton	Ronald	Glessner
Debbie	Dunn	Mrs.	Fingleton	Betty	Glueck
Kenneth	Dupree	Christina L.	Fisher	Ruth	Godwin
Beverly	Durham	Deborah	Fisher	Jane	Hilton



<b>First Name</b>	<b>Last Name</b>	<b>First Name</b>	<b>Last Name</b>	<b>First Name</b>	<b>Last Name</b>
Barbara	Eason	William R.	Gupton(Billy)	Samuel	Hoffman
Mrs. J. H.	Eason	Edith	Guthrie	Larry B.	Holding
Rebecca	Gouge	Herbert	Haithcock	Glenda	Hope
Eugene	Graves	Durwood	Harp	Lewis	Holland
D. M.	Gray	Shirley	Harrell	Mrs. Lewis	Holland
Gladys	Gray	Cecilia C.	Harris	Wanda H.	Hollis
Jo Anne	Gray	David	Harris	Dennis	Hollowell
Katrina	Gray	Janice	Harris	Elwood	Hollowell
Marvin	Gray	Michael	Harris	Dean B.	Holt
Michael	Gray	Ray J.	Harris	R. D.	Holt
A. B.	Green	Elsie	Harris	Mrs. R. D.	Holt
Onnie	Green	A. C.	Harrison	Vance	Holt
Cecil	Greene	Thelma	Harrison	James	Honeycutt
Danny	Green	Arlene	Harrison	Louise	Honeycutt
Donna Rogers	Green			Charlotte	Hope
Nancy T.	Green	Steve	Harrison	Craig	Hope
Onnie	Greene	Josephine	Hart	Danaize	Horton
Anne	Greene	Ona	Hartsell	Etta Lou	Horton
Polly	Green	Gene	Hatley	Jake	Horton
Jasper N.	Griffin	Carolyn	Hayes	Estelle	Horton
Mrs, Jasper N.	Griffin	Robert L.	Hayes	Joe	Horton
Joan	Griffin	Watt A.	Helms	Nancy	Horton
Andy	Gupton	Mrs. Watt A.	Helms	Tammy	Horton
Avon	Gupton	Cathy T.	Henries	Tonja	Horton
Christopher	Gupton	Roy Dale	Hensley	Mrs. Samuel	Hoffman
Danny	Gupton	Annie Lunsford	Herman	Joey	House
David	Gupton	Barbara	Hicks	Barbara	Howell
Doris	Gupton	Dianne	Hicks	Jeri	Howell
Florence	Gupton	Phil	Hicks	Shirley	Howell
Holly	Gupton	Elizabeth H.	Lawrence		
Jacqueline	Gupton	William E.	Hicks	Homer	Isom
Janet	Gupton	Donnie	High	Terri	Ivusic
Janie	Gupton	Douglas	High	Aileen	Hyde
Louis E.	Gupton	Vance P.	High	Esther	Ihlenburg
Mable	Gupton	William E.	Hicks	Walter	Ihlenburg
Mike	Gupton	Hugh	Hightower	Hazel	Isom
Molly	Gupton	Sylvia	Hightower	Robert	Jackson
Robert A	Gupton	Joe H.	Hill	Grover C.	Jacobs
Sharon	Gupton	V. J.	Hilliard	Mrs. Grover C.	Jacobs
Shirley C.	Gupton	Frank	Hilton	D. R.	MacKinnie

First Name	Last Name	First Name	Last Name	First Name	Last Name
Sidney	Gupton	L. James	Klima	James D.	Madders
Teresa	Gupton	L. James (Mrs)	Klima		
Grover	Jacobs Jr.	Renee T.	Kowalick	Janice	Mangum
Carolyn	James	Christy O.	Krug	Evelyn	Marshburn
Cecil	James	Clarence	Ladwick	James	Marshburn
Donald	James	Bonnie S.	Lane	Mrs. James	Marshburn
Norman	James	Carl L.	Lane	Jamie	Marshburn
Ruth	James	Carl L. Mrs.	Lane	James	Marshburn III
James	Jarman	Chris	Laney	Billie	Matthews
Juanita	Jarman	Stara	Laney	Frances	Matthews
Ruth	Jarman	Tyson	Laney	James	Matthews
Mary R.	Jenkins	Walter	Laney	Joe	Matthews
Donald E.	Johnson	Buel	Lee	Ethel P.	McBryde
Mrs. Donald E.	Johnson	Mrs. Buel	Lee	Leon	McCawley
Henry	Johnson	Cecily	Lester	Judy Swain	McDougald
J. T.	Johnson	Dennis	Lester	William R.	McGarr
Jimmy	Johnson	Harold	Lester	James (Jim)	McSwain
Mae	Johnson	Harold	Lester	Peggy	McSwain
Nell	Johnson	M. O.	Lester	Stacey	McSwain
Patricia	Johnson	Lottie Mae	Lester	James Doyle	Medders
Billy	Jones	Neal	Lester	Melissa W.	Mericle
Carolyn	Jones	Rayna	Lester	Edna	Miles
Douglas M.	Jones	Sheila	Lester-Goss	Barbara	Miller
Eloise	Jones	Eloise G.	Lewis	David	Miller
Evie M.	Jones	John	Lewis	J. W.	Miller
Herman	Jones	Kim	Light	Mrs. J. W.	Miller
Jean D.	Jones	Peggy	Littleton	Jerry	Miller
Jo Frances J.	Dillingham	Carolyn	Lonely	Lindsay	Miller
Lula M.	Jones	Annie G.	Long	Mary	Miller
Marie	Jones	Brenda	Long	Phyllis	Miller
Mary .	Jones	Deborah W.	Long	Charlie	Mills
Robert	Jones	Jesse	Lumpkin	Madeleine	Mills
Diana Jones	Long	Mrs. A. E.	Lyon	Bryant	Minor
Willie	Jones	Hazel	Lyon	Alma	Minor
Doug.	Jones Jr.	Helen Jones	Newton	Gloria	Minor
Kathy	Kaylor	Jerry	Lyon	Jeremy	Minor
Rebecca	Kaylor	W. O.	Lyon	Linda	Minor
Stephen	Kaylor(Attorney)	Janie P.	Lyon	Lisa	Minor
David	Kilpatrick	Mrs. D. R.	MacKinnie	Michelle	Minor
Deborah L.	Kilnatrick	Robert L.	Madden		

First Name	Last Name	First Name	Last Name	First Name	Last Name
Carolyn G.	Kincaid	Kimberlee	O'Conner	Leon B.	Perkinson
L. K.	Kincaid	Betty Sue	Oneal	Carolyn	Perkinson
Timothy	Minor	Susie	Ortman	Larry	Pernell
Virginia M.	Minor	Mable G.	Page	Wanda	Pernell
Douglas	Minor Jr.	Kimberly	Parham	J. C.	Perry
Linda R.	Mitchell	Richard	Parks	Mrs. J. C.	Perry
Lester	Montague	Beth F.	Parrish	James Stanley	Perry
Mrs. Lester	Montague	Mildred	Parrish	Nell G.	Perry
Michael	Montague	Ronald	Parrish	Mary H.	Phillips
Roy	Montague	Ronnie	Parrish	Inez	Phipps
Barry	Moore	Ruth W.	Parrish	Joanne	Picket
Dora Ann	Moore	Sarah	Parrish	Mary Jean	Picket
Jamie	Moore	Thomas E.	Parrish	Edward	Piotrowski
Jamie H.	Moore	Tony	Parrish	Jean	Piotrowski
William L.	Moore	W.O.	Parrott	Elizabeth	Pittard
Barbara	Morgan	O. G.	Parrott	Julia	Pittman
Clayborn	Morgan	O. G. (Mrs.)	Parrott	Rhonda	Pleasants
Robert	Medlin	Wayne	Pascal	James	Poinell *
Margaret	Medlin	David	Patterson	Sally S.	Poinell *
Chris	Morton	David	Patterson	J.M.	Powell
Sue	Morton	Janeen	Patterson	Sallie J.	Powell
Susanne	Morton	Minnie	Patterson	Jay	Prince
Vernon	Morton	Mozelle	Patterson	Joy	Prince
Marian	Moseley	Roy	Patterson	David	Pring
Roy	Moss	Mrs. Z. V.	Patterson	Lucie M.	Pring
Tamm'H.	Muckler	Andrea	Peace	Marvin	Pring
Carolyn	Murray	Billie H.	Pearce	Nellie F.	Pruitt
Ronald	Murray	Bobby	Pearce	James R.	Puckett
Linda T.	Nachnani	Cathy	Pearce	Mrs. James R.	Puckett
Ada	Nelson	Lester	Pearce	Mary Lynn	Puckett
Anita	Newton	Brenda	Peed	Melissa C.	Queen
Melvin	Newton	David M.	Peed	Grace	Radford
Brad	Oakley	Laine	Peed	O.M.	Radford
Christy	Oakley	Mary M.	Peed	Gilbert	Ragland
Deborah	Oakley	Thomas L.	Peed	Mrs. Gilbert	Ragland
Carolyn	Oakley	Emmanuel(Rev Pegram			
Elbert	Oakley	Peggy	Pegram	Linda A.	Ray
Kenneth	Oakley	Sherri	Pegram	E. B.	Rea
Melissa	Oakley	Terri	Pegram	George	Register
Mildred	Oakley	T.Loyd	Pendergraph	Jacquiline(Bolch)	Register



First Name	Last Name	First Name	Last Name	First Name	Last Name
Sam	Oakley	Nancy	Saunders	Nona	Spencer
Thomas	Oakley	Tommy	Saunders	Patsy	Spencer
Richard	Reneger	Tim	Scarboro	Phyllis Bush	Steele
Hoyt	Rheuark	Dawn	Schaefer	Glenda	Stephenson
Conrad	Rich	Adam	Shaefer	Sherlyn	Stevens
Curtis	Rich	Daisy	Shearin	Colby	Stockton
Mrs. Curtis	Rich	Troy	Shearin		
W. M.	Rich	Howard W.	Shaw	Jackie	Stockton
Myrtie	Rich	Karen	Shaw	Justice	Stockton
Ezra	Riggsbee	Kimberly	Shaw	Wayne	Stockton
Patricia P.	Riggsbee	Linda K.	Shaw	Bobby	Stone
Alma	Roberson	N.A. (Dr.)	Shearin	Rachel	Stone
James	Roberson	Ms.Dr. N. A.	Shearin	Norman	Streib
Duane P.	Rock	Doris	Shelley	Virginia W.	Streib
Laura	Rock	James	Shelley	Richard	Streib
Timothy B.	Rock	Jay	Shelley	Allen	Strickland
Deborah H.	Rogers	Linda Fisher	Shore	Carolyn	Strickland
Lance O.	Rogers	Judy H.	Simmons		
Lenny	Rogers	Andrew	Slaughter	Charles	Strickland
Nancy W.	Rogers	Donna	Slaughter	Christine	Strickland
Robert R.	Rogers	Victor	Slaughter	Clayton	Strickland
Linda	Roghelia	W. O. (Bill)	Slaughter	Clyde	Strickland
Angelia	Rooks	Irma	Small	David	Strickland
David E.	Rooks	Eddie L.	Smith	David L.	Strickland
Dolly	Rooks	Edna Ruth	Smith	Derek	Strickland
Timothy	Rooks	Linda S.	Smith	Diane	Strickland
David R.	Rosser	Spencer W.	Smith	Edwin	Strickland
Bertha	Royal	Mrs. Spencer	Smith	Ginger	Strickland
Donald	Royal	Stanley	Smith	Mary	Strickland
Doris	Royal	Virginia Nan	Smith	Roger	Strickland
Lynn	Royal	W. H.	Smith	Varistine	Strickland
R. J.	Royal	Mrs. W. H.	Smith	W.E.	Strickland
Mrs. R.J.	Royal	Vicki	Smoak	Chester	Stump
R.G.	Royal	Betty B.	Snyder	Gail	Suggs
Mrs. R. G.	Royal	Milton	Snyder	Clara W.	Swain
Robert	Royal	Tonya H.	Snyder		
A. C.	Russell	Johnny	Spear	Nancy	Sykes
Mike	Russell	Estelle	Spell	Sherry P.	Tackett
Ralph	Sadler	Dwendolyn	Spencer	G. C.	Tant
Hazel Isom	Sanfilippo	Herbert	Spencer	Mrs G. C.	Tant

First Name	Last Name	First Name	Last Name	First Name	Last Name
Edna	Saunders	Billy	Vaughan	Margarett W.	Wheelous
George	Saunders	Mrs. William R	Vaughn	Barbara	Wheless
Nelson	Tant	Ruth	Veit	Diane	Wheless
Michael	Tate	Pam R.	Vickers	Elsie	Wheless
Patricia	Tate	Donna	Wagoner	Linda B.	Wheless
Jessie	Taylor	Thomas	Wagoner	Ronnie	Wheless
Paul	Taylor	Dwayne	Walker	William G.	Wheless
Douglas	Tharrington	Eleanor	Walker	John	White
Tammy	Tharrington	Garland	Walker	Mary Love	White
Patsy S.	Thieken	Jean	Walker	Sarah E.	White
Bette L.	Thomas	Luther	Walker	Ruby	Whiten
Bob	Thomas	Mark	Walker		
Ene	Thomas	Richard D.	Walker	Evelyn	Whitfield
Louise	Thomas	Pansy	Washington	Hugh	Whitfield
Robert R.	Thomas Jr.	Mrs.Curtis	Watkins	Ross A.	Whitfield
E. L.	Thomerson	Mary E.	Watkins	Tommie	Whitfield
E.M.	Thomerson	William W.	Watkins	V. W.	Whittlet
Annie	Thompson	Mary E.	Watts	Christine	Whitlow
Bobby L.	Thompson	Edward	Welborn	Barbara W.	Wiggins
Judy	Thompson	Edward	Welborn	Brenda	Wiggs
Kathy	Thurman	Deborah P.	Wells	Vernon	Wiggs
Nancy	Thurman	W. H.	Wells	Christine W.	Whitfield
Cathrine	Tippett	W. H.	Wells	Elliott	Wilder
Elizabeth	Todd	Vorita E.	Wennermark	Lorene	Wilder
Michael	Todd	Brian	West	Troy	Wilder
James B.	Tomlinson	Sandra	West	Billy	Wilkie
Jimmy	Tomlinson	Bruce A.	Wethington		
Susan	Tomlinson	Betty	Wheeler	Amanda	Wilkins
Vincey	Tomlinson	Cheryl	Wheeler	Bessie	Wilkins
Brenda	Tuck	Hallie	Wheeler	Donald	Wilkins
Riley Lee	Tuck Jr.	Janice	Wheeler	Esper	Wilkins
Bernice	Tucker	Linda B.	Wheeler	Jean	Wilkins
Troy	Tunstall	Linwood	Wheeler		
Vikki	Tunstall	Linwood (Mrs)	Wheeler	Jennifer (Nikki)	Wilkins
William (Bill)	Tunstall	Macon	Wheeler	Kendra	Wilkins
Wilma	Tunstall	Neal	Wheeler	Kimberly(Kim)	Wilkins
Barney	Turner	Adele	Wheless	Ruth	Wilkins
Coy	Turner	Alva	Wheless	Samantha	Wilkins
Glenn	Turner	Lee	Wheless	Deborah W.	Willette
Louise	Turner	Elsie	Wheless	Peggy	Williams
Lucy	Turner				

First Name	Last Name	First Name	Last Name	First Name	Last Name
Sylvia	Uhrin				
Pansy (Pat)	Willis				
Edward W.(Pete)	Willis				
Leila	Wilson				
Molly	Wilson				
Phyllis M.	Wilson				
Jonathan W.	Wise				
Bruce Allen	Wethington				
Lisa C.	Wolfe				
Dorothy	Womble				
Deborah	Woodlief				
Elaine Y.	Woodlief				
Goldie	Woodlief				
Joel	Woodlief				
Heather	Wren				
Jodie O.	Wren				
Tommie	Wren	Pam	Godwin		
Chandler	Wynne	Amey	Dean		
Vicki	Wynne	Earl H.	Parker		
Arnold D.	Wyrick	Elizabeth	Parker		
Hazel	Yarborough				
Melvin	Yarborough				
Claxton H.	Yates				
Edna E.	Yates				
Michael	Yates				
John	Zimmerman				

Shanks Bradsher- Out of alphabetical order.

Excell is a wonderful computer program for certain functions. It will not however, alphabetize three columns on each page when you have nine pages of three columns each. Neither will it designate the sex of an individual. Therefore, if you come across a name like Samuel Dexterity and you know that it should be "Mrs. Samuel Dexterity", don't be surprised. Toward the end of this project I, as an example of poor judgement on my part, took advice and dropped the title designations such as 'Mr.' ,Mrs., Deacon, Charter Member or Reverend, and this has caused me additional hours work and some frustration.

You may have to spend some time finding your name in this membership list. It should be in alphabetical order, by last name, from top to bottom of the column, and from left-to-right in observing the three columns. I am afraid that this is not always the case.



## PICTURES OF OUR PEOPLE:



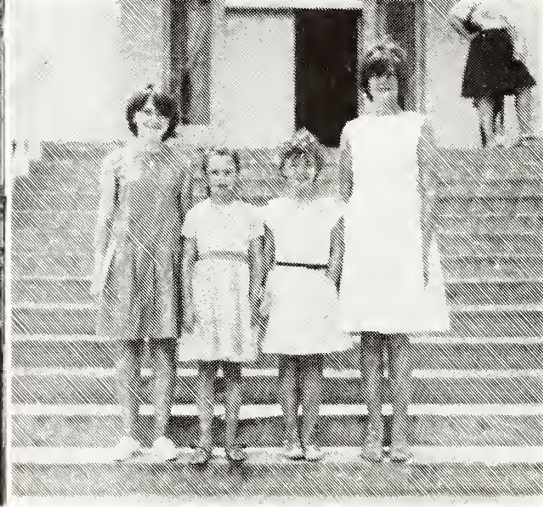
Young People having dinner in the dining hall, above, and young people participating in the God and Country Celebration- below!



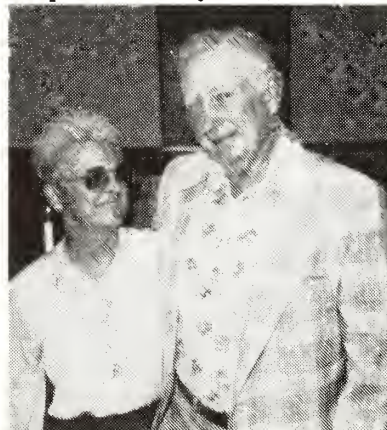
Young People eating, celebrating and playing on a boat!



Thelma and A. C. Harrison were experiencing better days when this picture was taken. The Young ladies were at G.A. Camp at Chowon College. From left-right, they are Trudy, Wanda, Sherry and Donna. The year was 1966. Hey, that was thirty-two years ago. Bet they are all grown up now.



Madeline & Charlie Mills moved to Florida a few years ago. We have missed them and they have missed us. We have heard that both are in the hospital this early June, 1998.



Hazel & Bill Andrews on the left and Esther & Walter Ihlenburg. (Walter died suddenly in 1997 and Esther moved to S.C.)





was taken in 1963.



At Camp Caswell and then packed and loaded to go home. Why aren't there some smiles, and what kind of station wagon is that? What brand and year model? This represents two different years- 1959 in the station wagon and the girls' picture

See girls, you wouldn't smile and you have gotten old-er! Oh, but these aren't the same young people who were at Camp Caswell in 1963. They couldn't have gotten this old by 1985. This is the Biltmore House at Asheville, and guess who is in the picture!



Hey! These are worried moms. Wonder why? All they are doing is sponsoring a Valentine Party!



Are

these the same people who were at Camp Caswell in '63? Bet somebody else put those hearts on the wall!

Baptist do like to eat, don't we? Looks like they are having a good time. They aren't sponsoring a valentine party!







**The Senior Queens of first baptist in 1997**

**Back Row: Left to Right: Bea Tucker, Oie Boyce and Pat Willis.  
Front Row, L/R- Jackie Register, Lois Barbour and Janie Lyon**



**First Baptist in the Christmas Parade. Can you identify the choir members?**



**It was tacky party time in B.T.U. in 1959.**



Shown on this page are Carolyn James and Lenny Rogers, Neal Wheeler and Miss Molly Gupton.

Carolyn has been a leader in the church for many years. Among other things she has served as Director of the W. M. S. on a number of occasions.

Lenny, (Leonard) is the Moderator of the Church, a position he has held a number of years, and, whenever the church has needed a Choir Director, Mr. Rogers has been there. He has filled this position this time since 1996. He is always ready to do that which he is called upon to do.



Neal Wheeler, shown on the left above, served as Choir Director after Mr. Gassaway left and before Miss Abernethy came on the job. He is a native of Butner and was a student at Duke while assisting his home church.

And, of course, in the center is Miss Molly Gupton.. While not a Charter Member, Miss Molly has been here a long time. The widow of the late Sidney Gupton, who was also active in the church, Miss Molly isn't sure about her age. Some records show that she was born one year and some have it that she was born a different year. She is still active in all phases of the church including teaching her Sunday School Class every Sunday.

# OFFICERS OF THE CHURCH

Year	Pastor	Clerk	Ch. of Deacons	W.M.U. Director	B.T.U. Director
1948	Rev. Oren Bradley, Int.	Mrs. W. E. Bullock		Mrs. W. E. Bullock	
1949	Rev. Edward Andrews	Mrs. Lee Bailey		Mrs. Fred Coley	
1950	Rev. Clyde Melton	W. E. Bullock		Mrs. J. A. Marshburn	L. B. Perkinson
1951	Rev. Hal M. Helms	Mrs. R. R. Thomas		Mrs. Gladys Gray	L. B. Perkinson
1952	Rev. Hal M. Helms	Mrs. R. R. Thomas		Mrs. Adele Turnage	Mrs. Fred Coley
1953	Rev. Hal M. Helms	Mrs. R. R. Thomas		Mrs. Adele Turnage	Mrs. W. E. Bullock
1954	Rev. Hal M. Helms	Mrs. R. R. Thomas		Mrs. Pearl Shearin	Mrs. Fred Coley
1955	Rev. Harold Lester	Mrs. R. R. Thomas		Mrs. Robert James	Norman Kelley
1956	Rev. Harold Lester	Mrs. R. R. Thomas		Mrs. Robert James	A. C. Harrison
1957	Rev. Warren Bush, 11/56	Mrs. R. R. Thomas	M. O. Lester	Mrs. W. M. Rich	Norman Kelley
1958	Rev. Warren Bush	Mrs. R. R. Thomas	M. O. Lester	Mrs. W. M. Rich	Luther Walker
1959	Rev. Warren Bush	Mrs. R. R. Thomas	M. O. Lester	Mrs. Watt Helms	Ruby White
1960	Rev. Warren Bush	Mrs. R. R. Thomas	A. C. Harrison	Mrs. Roy Barham	Mrs. Jones Puckett
1961	Rev. Warren Bush	Mrs. R. R. Thomas	R. R. Thomas	Mrs. Roy Barham	A. C. Harrison
1962	Rev. Warren Bush	Mrs. R. R. Thomas	R. R. Thomas	Mrs. Hazel Fisher	A. C. Harrison
1963	Rev. Warren Bush	Mrs. R. R. Thomas	John S. Daniel	Mrs. Hazel Fisher	Barry F. Lovette
1964	Rev. Warren Bush	Mrs. R. R. Thomas	Leon B. Perkinson	Mrs. Hazel Fisher	Catherine Treadway
1965	Rev. Warren Bush	Mrs. R. R. Thomas	Edward Willis	Mrs. Watt Helms	M. O. Lester
1966	Rev. Warren Bush	Mrs. R. R. Thomas	Joe Bryant	Mrs. Homer Isom	William Tunstall
1967	Rev. Warren Bush	Mrs. R. R. Thomas	Joe Bryant	Mrs. Nellie Faircloth	William Tunstall
1968	Rev. Warren Bush	Mrs. Rowena Frasier	Joe Bryant	Mrs. Nellie Faircloth	Mrs. Warren Bush
1969	Rev. Warren Bush	Mrs. Rowena Frasier	Boyd Gillis	Mrs. Nellie Faircloth	Ray Morgan
1970	Rev. Warren Bush	Mrs. Rowena Frasier	Ray Morgan	Mrs. M. W. Ellis	Jim & Peggy McSwain
1971	Rev. David Peach	Mrs. Rowena Frasier	Ray Morgan	Mrs. Robert Rogers	Jim & Peggy McSwain
1972	Rev. David Peach	Mrs. Rowena Frasier	Ray Morgan	Mrs. Robert Rogers	Not listed
1973	Rev. David Peach	Mrs. William Guppton	Vernon Morton	Mrs. Robert Rogers	Pete Willis
1974	Rev. David Peach	Mrs. William Guppton	Vernon Morton	Mrs. Sydney Guppton	James E Pittman
1975	Rev. David Peach	Mrs. William Guppton	Ray Morgan	Mrs. Sydney Guppton	Eddie Johnson
1976	Rev. David Peach	Mrs. William Guppton	Garland Walker	Mrs. Shanks Bradsher	Jim & Peggy McSwain
1977	Rev. David Peach-3/77	Mrs. William Guppton	Jim Shelley	Mrs. Shanks Bradsher	Jim & Peggy McSwain
1978	Rev. Scott Good	Mrs. Jackie Register	Mrs. Bess Bush	Mrs. Shanks Bradsher	Jim & Peggy McSwain
1979	Rev. Scott Good	Mrs. Jackie Register	Mrs. Bess Bush	Mrs. Lawrence Vines	BTU discontinued
1980	Rev. Scott Good	Mrs. Jackie Register	Mrs. Betty Aiken	Mrs. Carolyn James	
1981	Rev. Scott Good	Mrs. Jackie Register	Leonard Rogers	Mrs. Carolyn James	
1982	Rev. Scott Good	Mrs. Jackie Register	Leonard Rogers	Mrs. Bess Bush	
1983	Rev. Scott Good	Mrs. Jackie Register	Jim McSwain	Mrs. Melba Bailey	
1984	Rev. Scott Good- 10/84	Mrs. Jackie Register	Jim McSwain	Mrs. oie Boyce	
1985	Rev. Emmanuel Pegram, 11/85	Mrs. Jackie Register	James Brooks	Mrs. oie Boyce	
1986	Rev. Emmanuel Pegram	Mrs. Jackie Register	Richard Foster	Mrs. oie Boyce	
1987	Rev. Emmanuel Pegram	Mrs. Jackie Register	Richard Foster	Mrs. Mary Bradsher	
1988	Rev. Emmanuel Pegram	Mrs. Jackie Register	Ron Daniels	Mrs. Mary Strickland	
1989	Rev. Emmanuel Pegram	Mrs. Jackie Register	Richard Foster	Mrs. Mary Strickland	
1990	Rev. Emmanuel Pegram	Mrs. Jackie Register	William Tunstall	Mrs. Mary Strickland	
1991	Rev. Emmanuel Pegram	Mrs. Jackie Register	Ron Daniels	Mrs. Mary Strickland	
1992	Rev. Emmanuel Pegram	Mrs. Jackie Register	Ron Daniels	Mrs. Mary Strickland	
1993	Rev. Emmanuel Pegram	Mrs. Jackie Register	Jim McSwain	Mrs. Chris Emory	
1994	Rev. Emmanuel Pegram	Mrs. Jackie Register	Robert Pierce	Mrs. Chris Emory	
1995	Rev. Emmanuel Pegram	Mrs. Jackie Register	Betty Aiken	Mrs. Chris Emory	
1996	Rev. Emmanuel Pegram	Mrs. Jackie Register	Jim McSwain	Mrs. Chris Emory	
1997	Rev. Emmanuel Pegram	Mrs. Jackie Register	Jim McSwain	Mrs. Mary Strickland	



# BAPTIST TRAINING UNION

Year	Director	Enrollment
1949		
1950	L. B. Perkinson	None listed
1951	L. B. Perkinson	None listed
1952	Mrs. Fred Coley	None listed
1953	Mrs. W. E. Bullock	None listed
1954	Mrs. Fred Coley	47
1955	Norman Kelley	45
1956	A. C. Harrison	None listed
1957	Norman Kelley	47
1958	Luther Walker	54
1959	Ruby White	80
1960	Mrs. Jones Puckett	73
1961	A. C. Harrison	66
1962	A. C. Harrison	62
1963	Barry F. Lovette	82
1964	Catherine Treadway	84
1965	M. O. Lester	66
1966	William Tunstall	46
1967	William Tunstall	68
1968	Mrs. Warren Bush	55
1969	Ray Morgan	37
1970	Jim & Peggy McSwain	None listed
1971	Jim & Peggy McSwain	16
1972	Not listed	49
1973	Pete Willis	50
1974	James E Pittman	36
1975	Eddie Johnson	38
1976	Jim & Peggy McSwain	35
1977	Jim & Peggy McSwain	None listed
1978	Jim & Peggy McSwain	16
1979	BTU discontinued	

## THESE HISTORICAL NOTES WERE TAKEN FROM THE MINUTES OF THE FLAT RIVER ASSOCIATION.

- 1956 One session of the Flat River Baptist Association met at Butner Baptist.
- 1959 Started Construction of the Educational Building.
- 1960 The Butner Church completed and entered the first unit of four proposed units in their new construction program. This first unit is the Children's Building and will accomlitate 200 children from the Nursery through the Junior Departments.  
On October 9, 1960, Fred D. Baggers was called as Minister of Music.
- 1962 Butner Church made the following improvements to their building and equipment.  
A New roof on sanctuary, added sidewalk in front of Children's Building, purchased a new piano and addressograph, and The Reverend Fenton Morehead was called as Minister of Music.
- 1965 Butner Church completed a new pastorium.
- 1966 The Reverend Warren Bush served as Chairman of The Christian Life Commission of The Flat River Baptist Association and the North Carolina Baptist State Convention.  
The pastor moved into the new pastorium.
- 1967 The Butner Church constructed a new Educational Building for Intermediates and Young People at a cost of \$40,000.
- 1969 The Reverend Warren Elected to serve on the State General Board. of Baptist Convention.
- 1971 The Butner Church Called The Reverend David Peach and he started his work on 11/1/71.
- 1973 Butner Church dedicated their new Sanctuary and changed the name from Butner Baptist to First Baptist Church of Butner.  
Former Butner Pastor, The Reverend Warren Bush died. (See Memorial elsewhere in this history.)
- 1974 The Butner Church Licensed Lee Draughn on 10/2/73 and called Ed Lycette as Associate Minister on 7/7/74.
- 1976 Church called Rev. James Pearson as Associate Pastor on 8/29/76. He left the church on 11/6/77 and Dr. John Freeman served as interim pastor until 11/1/78.
- 1978 The Reverend Scott Good became pastor on 1/8/78 and Larry K. Dixon became Associate Pastor on 3/5/78. Mrs. Harley Cecil became Music Director on 11/9/77.
- 1979 Larry K. Dixon and Mrs. Harley Cecil resigned during year and Lawrence Vines became Music Director on 4/15/79.
- 1986 Reverend Emmanuel Pegram became pastor on 10/14/85 and Mrs. Kathy Wilkinson resigned as Minister of Music on 5/14/86.
- 1988 Dana Gasaway was employed as Minister of Music and Youth in June of 1988.
- 1990 Butner Church reported that Dana Gassaway had been ordained to the Ministry.
- 1991 Butner Church sold its pastorium and allowed pastor to buy his own home. Church dedicated the Communion Service and Candle Sticks to diseased members.
- 1993 Church burned note on the sanctuary on 6/13/93.
- 1994 Dana Gasaway left church on 6/5/94 and Neal Wheeler became interim Music Director.
- 1995 Laura Abernethy started work as Minister of Music and Youth on 3/5/95. Church dedicated a Grand Samick Piano which was given as a Memorial to Mr. Kenneth Wheeler, son of Mr. & Mrs. Macon Wheeler. The service was held on 7/23/95.
- 1997 Laurie Abernethy resigned as director of Music & Youth on 10/10/96. Lennie Rogers became interim Music Director. Church dedicated new carpet, pew upholstry and Choir Robes

These are notes of historical interest that were taken from the Associational minutes.

## OUR BELOVED WHO DIED OVER THE YEARS

Year	Name	Year	Name	Year	Name
1955	Mrs. Iola Gooch Green	1981	Mr. Troy Wilder	1990 cont	Mrs. Bertha Royal
1959	Mr. James T. Hart		Miss Minnie Patterson		Mr. W. D. Jones
1962	Mrs. Oscar Parrott	1982	Mrs. W. P. Boyce		Mr. Lewis Gupton
1963	Mr. A. C. Bowden		Mr. Larry Dean		Mrs. Estelle Horton
1964	Mr. Autis T. Cooper		Mr. Joseph Eason		Mrs. Germaina Daniel
	Mr. James B. Tomlinson		Mrs. Majorie Marshburn		Mrs. Alma Minor
1965	Mr. George Abemathy		Mrs. Wanda Brinkley		Mrs. Dorothy Enloe
	Mr. Curtis Rich		Mrs. Betty Daniels		Mr. Melvin Yarborough
1966	Deacon William M. Rich	1983	Mrs. Pinky Whitley		Deacon Ray Harris
1967	Mr. Vance High		Miss Inez Phipps		Mrs. Edna Miles
1968	Mr. Mack Arnold		Mrs. Annie Guthrie	1991	Mrs. Onnie Green
	Mrs. Fred Coley		Mrs. Mary Daniel		Mrs. Lorene Wilder
1969	Mrs. Nelly Bailey		Mr. Winfield Lyon		Mr. James Fletcher
	Mr. Roy Moss		Mrs. Ruby Whiten		Mrs. Janet Cleveland
	Mr. E. A. Rea		Mrs. Jessie Taylor		Mrs. Daisy Shearin
	Mrs. Mabel G. Page	1984	Mr. W. R. Harvell		Mrs. Carolyn Perkinson
	Mr. Robert L. Jackson		Mrs. Julia Pittman	1992	Mrs. Myrtle Rich
1971	Mr. Jake Horton		Mr. Perry Dickerson		Mr. Laine Peed
	Rev. Roy Barham	1986	Mr. John Lewis		Mr. Sam Oakley
	Mr. Garland Daniel		Mrs. Minnie Cash	1993	Mrs. Sally Eason
1973	Rev. Warren T. Bush		Mrs. Mildred Oakley		Mrs. Susan Cheek
	Mrs. E. M. Thomerson		Mrs. Pauline Cooper	1994	Mrs. Anne Moore
1974	Mrs. George Abemathy		Mr. Lee Wheeler		Mrs. Willie Lee Bowden
	Mrs. Irene Gordon		Mrs. Helen Cooley		Mrs. Cathy Boone
	Mrs. Ara Griffin		Mr. W. E. Strickland		Deacon Robert Thomas
	Mr. James P. Johnson		Mrs. Vera Johnson		Mr. David Patterson
1975	Mr. W. E. Hicks	1987	Mrs. Diane H. Eller		Mrs. Ruth Smith
	Mr. Lee Draughn		Mrs. Pearl Blinson	1995	Mrs. Jeanne Bowles
1976	Mr. Buel Lee		Deacon James Marshburn		Mrs. Edna Saunders
	Mrs. Rachael Daniel		Mrs. Amy Dean		Mrs. Jean Wilkins
	Mrs. Estelle Spell	1988	Mrs. William Howell	1996	Mrs. Ailene Hyde
	Mrs. Vincey Tomlinson		Mrs. Bessie Wilkins		Mrs. Maude Dickerson
	Mr. Robert Clyde Hayes		Mr. A. C. Russell		Mrs. Irma Small
1977	Mrs. Pattie Jane Dennis		Mr. Warren Blinson		Mrs. Ella Hoffman
1978	Mr. Lawrence Ray Aikin	1989	Mr. Troy Shearin	1997	Deacon Walter Ihlenburg
	Mr. Sidney Gupton		Mrs. Edna Gillis		Mrs. Mildred Brown
	Mrs. Retha Evans		Mr. Chester Stump		Mr. Horace Lee Coley
	Mrs. Roberta Boone		Mr. William Gilliam		Mrs. Hazel Fisher
	Mr. Harold Duncan		Mrs. Rose Evers		Mr. Haskins Elliott
1979	Mr. Thomas Wagner	1990	Mrs. Frances Matthews		Mr. Ross Gupton
	Mr. Daniel Cooley		Mr. James Powell		
1980	Mrs. Z. V. Patterson		Deacon Tommy Whitfield		
	Mr. Jay Prince		Rev. J. V. Buchanan		
	Mr. James Stanley Perry		Mr. Grover Jacobs		
			Deacon John Daniel		



## A NOTE FROM THE AUTHOR

The term "Author" assumes more originality than is found in this Church History. A better designation would be Compiler. However, the amount of "search" that was necessary for the writing of this history has been so extensive that the search has bordered on "Research". I have thus used the term "author".



Virginia Nan & Eddie L. Smith

I am writing this article because I have made the assumption that some of you, the readers, will be curious as to what my reactions were regarding what I have found in searching the activities and drama that have gone into the composition of the history of The First Baptist Church of Butner, North Carolina.

In 1948, a group of very diverse people from several areas of this state and from South Carolina came together and organized a Baptist Church. The diversity of these people held one common thread. Almost all of them worked at The State Hospital at Butner. (Later renamed, "John Umstead Hospital".) This hospital had been opened for patients in June of 1947.

The majority of the Charter Members of what was first named, "The Butner Baptist Church", came from Franklin County. Like others from Warren and Person Counties, these people were largely sober, hardworking persons who previously worked on farms and in factories. Their education was limited, as was true of most limited income people of the South prior to World War II. Their religious background was Baptist. (Many of them pronounced the word, "Babdist", and some still do. Most of them were from small town or country churches.

They were not Theologians, but they knew what they believed and they were firm in telling others just what it meant to be a Christian. That they may have strayed from it from time to time is without question, but they did possess a strong Code of Conduct. Christianity was not only the way to get to heaven when you died; Christianity also gave these forefathers a strong sense of direction in their daily lives. As has been historically true of all good Baptists, they were people of the Book.

The years of greatest struggle as a Church was that period from the time of the organization of the church until the church had completed construction of the Buildings for Christian Education and Worship. This was also the period of the church's greatest accomplishment and progress. These half-educated, hard working people did some rather remarkable things. Foremen and Laborers worked side-by-side during the week and on Sunday. They were involved in a great endeavor and were caught up in the challenge.

The church has not possessed the excitement of those early years since the late seventies and the attendance and participation clearly shows a diminishing of this dedication and excitement. I have made every effort not to "preach" in the writing of this history. I could 'preach' a little bit in my personal comments, but I chose not to do so. I shall challenge the leadership and the membership to let's "Look at the Records" contained in this history and ask ourselves what we can do to cause this church to regain the dedication that the membership once demonstrated.

I recently challenged a Sunday School Class regarding our diminishing attendance in Sunday School. A member responded, "You can't put a gun to people's heads and force them to come!" My response then and my response now was and is, "No. We can't". However, Jesus said, "By this shall all men know that you are my Disciples: that you love one another." I love you! Saints and Sinners alike, but I have a greater identity with the sinner, for I am a sinner saved only by the grace of God.



## **REVELATIONS, CHAPTER 3: 1-6**

- 1. "And unto the angel of the church in Sardis write; These things saith he that hath the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars. I know thy works, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead.**
- 2. Be watchful and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die; for I have not found thy works perfect before God.**
- 3. Remember, therefore how thou hast received and heard , and hold fast, and repent. If therefore, thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee.**
- 4. Thou hast a few names even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with me in white: for they are worthy.**
- 5. He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment: and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels.**
- 6. He that hath an ear let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches."**

**The Bible,  
King James Version**

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**This History of The First Baptist Church of Butner, North Carolina is an authorized version. It was written on the occasion of the celebration of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the organization of this church. The church was organized on September 19, 1948.**

**The Fiftieth Anniversary Committee is composed of the following persons:**

**Mrs. Virginia Streib, Chair-Person**

**Mrs. Doris Gupton, Vice Chair-Person**

**Richard Holt**

**Mrs. Vicki Smoak**

**Mrs. Frances S. Bowden**

**David Rook**

**Eddie L. Smith, Writer of the History**

**The Reverend Emanuel Pegram, Pastor and Ex-Officio Member**

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